



After five years and millions spent, Decker Quad opens

By ALEXANDRA BYER
News-Letter Staff Writer

After almost five years of laborious planning, construction and \$77 million in spending, the Alonzo G. and Virginia G. Decker Quadrangle officially opened this past Saturday night.

More than 800 alumni, trustees and donors donned their finest black-tie attire to attend the lavish dedication ceremony, which was held as part of Leadership Weekend.

Perhaps the most outwardly excited about both the dedication ceremony and the new quad was President William Brody. "It's fabulous, it's the best, it's spectacular," he said.

"It's an inviting presence for welcoming the new students," Dean of Students Susan Boswell said, adding that the quad "seems amazing and looks like it's always been here."

Tours guided by Hopkins undergraduate and graduate students allowed the attendees to walk through the fully furnished Mason Hall and almost-complete Computational Science and Engineering Building.

Attendees then dined beneath a giant tent that nearly covered the 75,000 square feet of the quad, where they also listened to presentations about the new buildings.

"It's an attractive way to introduce the school," said Raymond "Chip" Mason, a member of the board of trustees who donated the funds

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CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

More than 800 alumni, trustees and donors donned their finest black-tie attire to attend the lavish opening of the Decker Quadrangle last Saturday evening.

City's staph infection rate highest in the nation

Drug-resistant strain can potentially kill if untreated

By MARIE CUSHING
News & Features Editor

A drug-resistant form of staph infection has been found in Baltimore at an excessively high rate, according to a new report produced in part by Hopkins researchers.

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) manifests itself as a severe respiratory infection. Unlike average staph infections, MRSA is resistant to treatment with antibiotics such as penicillin.

"I'm concerned that the rates of invasive MRSA are so high, particularly in Baltimore City," said Lee Harrison, principal investigator for the Maryland Active Bacterial Core Surveillance (ABCs) located at the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Harrison was one of the Hopkins researchers who contributed data to the report published on Oct. 17 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Though previously found only in hospitals, MRSA has begun to spread into the community at an alarming rate.

There have been at least six students with MRSA infections at Hopkins since last spring, according to Director of the Student Health and Wellness Center Alain Joffe.

"We are fortunate that the students we are seeing today have relatively minor infections," Joffe said.

Surveillance found that the rate of MRSA infection in Baltimore was 116.7 per 100,000 in 2005. This figure is more than three times the study's average of 31.8 infected per 100,000. In the same year, the standardized mortality rate from the infection was 6.3 per 100,000.

But Harrison said that these figures do not represent the actual effect that MRSA infections are having.

"Only about seven percent of MRSA infections are invasive, so the overall burden of MRSA infections is over tenfold higher than reported," Harrison said.

Joffe said that the recovery rate for the students the Center has diagnosed with MRSA infections has been

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Looking back at a crisis, one year later

One year after Sigma Chi's controversial "Halloween in the Hood" party, little has changed

By MAX McKENNA
News & Features Editor

One year later, few substantive changes have been made



FILE PHOTO

President Brody addressed the Hopkins community at a forum shortly after the incident.

within the University in response to the controversial Halloween in the Hood party.

"Many of my constituents are upset Justin Park is back on campus," Black Student Union President Brenton Penicooke said in reference to the ex-Sigma Chi brother who orchestrated the event.

"Some feel he got off too easy. We understand he didn't serve his full time, and some of us are upset."

In December, Park's sentence was "substantially reduced" according to a press release by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), which advocated for Park during his appeal to Dean

of Student Life Susan Boswell.

"The University cannot comment on disciplinary action taken against a student, due to a federal privacy law," University spokesman Dennis O'Shea said.

"Justin is no longer a part of Sigma Chi, and, out of respect for his wishes, we will not comment on his sentence," said Patrick Connell, vice president of the Hopkins chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

Park was originally suspended until spring 2008, following a hearing before the Student Conduct Board last November.

The BSU was the first to protest the party and Sigma Chi, and brought the event to the media's attention. The Conduct Board called primarily

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Administration selects first business dean

By HELEN SIMS
For The News-Letter

Hopkins hopes to add business to the list of its world-class

programs with the addition of its newest faculty member, Yash Gupta, as dean of the Carey Business School.

President Brody announced Gupta's appointment to the position on Oct. 29, after what selection committee member Edgar Roulac called "an incredible and powerful process because of the short, eight-month time frame."

Gupta takes his post on Jan. 1, and he is currently determining what will be involved in the plan to become a "world-class" business school.

"First, we have to develop a strategic plan," Gupta said. "We want to develop a world-class business school, but we need to define what 'world class' means to us."

In order to develop the school's strategic plan, Gupta plans to spend his first month at Hopkins speaking

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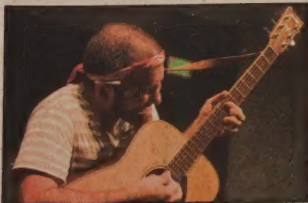
COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

Gupta has been appointed as dean of the Carey Business School.

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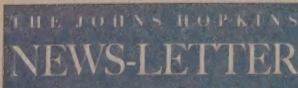
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Main Phone Number • 410.516.6000
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Business/Advertising • 410.516.4228
business@jhnewsletter.com

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Hopkins gets failing grade for secretive endowment

By KATLYN TORGERSON
News & Features Editor

Hopkins has made a slight improvement over the past year in its attempts to provide a sustainable future, according to the Sustainable Endowments Institute.

In the *College Sustainability Report Card*, the Institute gives letter grades to Canadian and U.S. colleges and universities according to eight categories of sustainability. It awarded Hopkins with an overall B- grade in sustainability for the year 2008, up from a C+ in the 2007 report.

According to the Institute, Hopkins is a leader in administering sustainable initiatives and in providing sustainable transportation, but its otherwise average or exemplary grades are tainted by failing grades in the categories of "endowment transparency" and "shareholder engagement."

"There is nothing we need to change; we're doing good work. We just need more of it," said Davis

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Reaching enlightenment at Homewood

By HANNAH DIAMOND
News-Letter Staff Writer

In the back of the first floor of the Bunting-Meyerhoff Interfaith Center is a small door that leads to the Hopkins Buddhist Chapel — a comfortable room with polished wood floors, flickering candles and students sitting cross-legged on the floor, working to clear their minds and meditating upon the path to enlightenment.

These are the members of the JHU Buddhist Society, who meet once a week to discuss questions of faith

and ethics and to meditate upon the teachings of Buddha.

On periodic Saturday mornings, the members take off their shoes outside the chapel, bow upon entering and take their places on the floor to begin their meditation session. With their knees touching the floor and their spines standing perfectly straight, they get started clearing their minds of the distractions and the thoughts of their every-



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Hopkins Buddhist Chapel gives observers a chance to find peace on campus.

day lives.

"It's when the mind is truly quiet and empty that we are able to hear the divine," said the Interfaith Center's Buddhist Minister, Hoji Scot.

Buddhism has grown from the sixth-century teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, who is often known as Gautama Buddha.

A relatively small number of

Hopkins students identify themselves as Buddhist — about 1.6 percent of the student body, according to a 2007 poll conducted by the Interfaith Center.

"The Buddhist idea of non-attachment has taught me to let go of the little things," said senior public health major Victoria Chen. "Buddhism stresses the

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NEWS & FEATURES

Joint venture opens JHU labs to Notre Dame

By JENNIFER PENG
For The News-Letter

Hopkins and the nearby College of Notre Dame signed off on a new deal last week, the Sister Alma McNicholas Women Scientists Program, formalizing a two-year renewable program that will offer three promising Notre Dame science-major undergraduates the chance to work during either the summer or academic school year as trainees with choice JHMI laboratories and researchers.

The program, named for a late Notre Dame biology professor whose estate provides the program's funding, will offer its participants a year-long assignment to a Johns Hopkins School of Medicine laboratory and faculty mentor. Selection of laboratories is currently underway, as are Notre Dame student applications; the year-long program schedule will begin its premier assignments this upcoming spring semester.

The McNicholas Program codifies a collaboration between Notre Dame and Hopkins that began in 2005. Peter Hoffman, chair of the biology department at Notre Dame, and several JHMI researchers and administrators joined forces to pair interested and promising Notre Dame students with labs looking for student work.

Due to the lack of funding, growth of the venture has been delayed until now. Before the institution of the McNicholas program, the admissions and placement process was relatively informal. News of the program and its two to three annual participating students was mass-emailed to the Hopkins faculty list. Given the additional McNicholas program's stipend of a \$200 supply fund for

each student, Catherine Will, who oversees lab recruitment and placement for both the summer and academic year programs, is enthusiastic about the program. "The placement process is so much easier, the news of the stipends got a very enthusiastic response out of the faculty. Professors are more than eager to have such talent in their labs without having to worry about the serious problem of where to find funding to cover the additional expenses. Most labs in the program are funded with NIH [National Institutes of Health] grants, and the restrictions that come with that money rarely allow funds to pay for a student trainee," Will said.

In addition to the supply stipend, parking passes will be provided for participating students, easing the burdens on them as the program funding does for that of their labs. The McNicholas program caters specifically to Notre Dame undergraduates interested in pursuing careers in the laboratory sciences such as biology, chemistry and biopsychology, which are three program-applicable fields of study offered as majors at Notre Dame. Students who apply must be full time Notre Dame students with a GPA of 3.4 or higher, be majoring

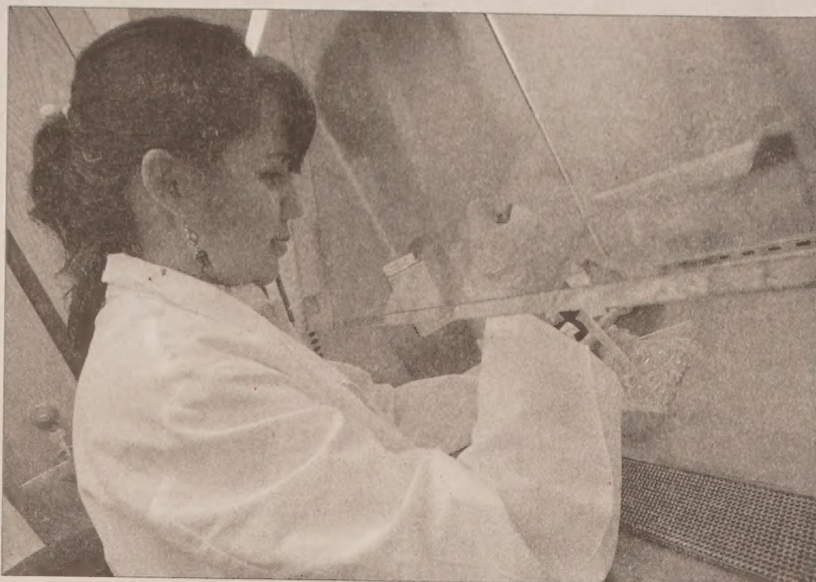
in the sciences and have an interest in laboratory research as a potential career path.

The program is a crucial experience for those students who view "medical school and graduate school as their next career step," Hoffman said. The program demands a minimum of 10 hours per week of research work and will provide undergraduates with opportunities "above and beyond those currently offered, the best of both worlds when the results of excellent teaching at Notre Dame is brought to opportunities for hands-on work in some of the world's best laboratories."

For Notre Dame, the McNicholas program is a definite foot in the door for enterprising undergraduates to get hands-on experience with research as well as gain exposure to post-docs and faculty who

have made a career out of laboratory work; for participating labs, Hoffman notes that "this venture will provide Hopkins with some of the best talent we have."

In addition to the on-campus and independent research opportunities already sponsored by faculty at Notre Dame, the McNicholas program will provide a wider array of research options for undergraduates. The increased response from Hopkins labs eager to hire funded students makes prospective placement all the more tailored to a participant's interests. The breadth and depth of Hopkins's resources would lead any Homewood resident interested in lab research to hope for the expansion of the program's initiative to incorporate Hopkins undergraduates and their peers at other Baltimore Exchange institutions.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER PHOTOGRAPHER
The McNicholas Program is designed to allow students from Notre Dame to access Hopkins lab facilities.

News in Brief

Newt Gingrich launches his new JHU Press book

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and longtime conservationist Terry L. Maple have co-authored *A Contract With the Earth*, which tries to give a new focus to the environmental debate of common commitment to the cause. The book stresses ushering in an era of "bipartisan environmentalism." Gingrich and Maple argue that environmental stewardship is a mainstream value that transcends partisan politics. The authors believe that most people are weary of the legal and political conflicts that only serve, in their estimation, as roadblocks to effective environmental conservation.

Gingrich, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 1999, was first elected to Congress in 1978 and served the Sixth District of Georgia for 20 years. Gingrich was in fact a former environmental studies professor who supported efforts to create the Chattahoochee River Greenway, protect the wild tigers of Asia and establish the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary. In 1998 the Georgia Wildlife Federation named him Legislative Conservationist of the Year.

Maple is president and chief executive officer of the Palm Beach Zoo and professor of conservation and behavior at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He previously served as president of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and was president and CEO of Zoo Atlanta from 1985 to 2003. He was co-editor of the book *Ethics on the Ark: Zoos, Animal Welfare and Animal Conservation*.

Maple says that this book is optimistic and unique in its approach and calls for both parties to put environmental issues on the agenda and find common ground.

— Lisa Dolan

Award in 1996.

Poggio wrote his discovery on the cerebral mechanisms of depth perception in a series of papers that are now famous. He based his discovery of depth perception on how each eye perceives the image differently. Due to the slightly different vantage points of the two eyes, images are shifted according to their relative distance. The brain then uses this cue to judge the depth of objects. Today, this kind of depth vision is known as stereopsis and is the basis for the development of 3D movies and comparable depth illusions.

Charles Edward Connor of the neuroscience department remembers Dr. Poggio, who was once his professor and longtime colleague at Hopkins, for his diverse interests outside of science. "He had a broad knowledge of history and literature. He was also an incredibly witty individual with a dry sense of humor. His medical school lectures were remarkably entertaining as well as informative," Connor told the *Baltimore Sun*. As an Italian, he was also known for being an aficionado of good wine and food, and he was a longtime patron of Mastellone's Deli and Wine on Harford Road.

Poggio graduated in 1951 from the University of Genoa's medical school. Poggio then pursued postdoctoral studies in neurosurgery and physiology at Hopkins from 1954 to 1960, then became an assistant professor of physiology and in 1975 he became a professor of physiology and of neuroscience in 1980. He was named professor emeritus in 1993 but remained active in his laboratory for several more years and only a few years ago returned to his homeland of Italy.

— Lisa Dolan

Scott Barrett of SAIS recognized for work on climate change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) received the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore on Oct. 12 and afterwards acknowledged the contribution of its many authors, one of whom was Scott Barrett, director of the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) International Policy Program. Barrett received a congratulatory letter from the IPCC thanking him and his colleagues for their efforts to produce several compelling reports on climate change that served as the basis for the prize.

Barrett was a lead author and contributing author of two of the IPCC assessment reports. The letter to him read: "This work has provided the foundation for the current recognition of IPCC as an authoritative voice on the climate system, the impacts of climate change and ways to avoid it. You all can be proud of this achievement."

Barrett recently published a new book, *Why Cooperate? The Incentive to Supply Global Public Goods*.

— Lisa Dolan

Neuroscientist Gian F. Poggio, expert in depth perception, died Oct. 19

Gian F. Poggio, a Hopkins neuroscientist and physiologist who discovered how the brain perceives three-dimensional nerve impulses from vision, passed away at age 80 from Parkinson's disease on Oct. 19 in his hometown of Genoa, Italy. His survivors include his brother, Alberto; a sister, Maria V.P. Rocca; four nephews and one niece.

Poggio's seminal work initiated an entire field of research on computational mechanisms of depth vision that is flourishing today. His work was recognized with the Lashley Prize in Neurobiology in 1989 and the Minerva Foundation's Golden Brain

Hopkins students react to gay marriage legislation

Members of the Homewood community respond to a ruling by the Maryland Court of Appeals banning same-sex marriage

By PAYAL PATNAIK
News-Letter Staff Writer

Hopkins student organizations reacted to the Sept. 18 Maryland Court of Appeals ruling to uphold a 34-year-old state law that prohibits same-sex marriage, but are still waiting for further direction for action.

The Circuit Court of Baltimore City first heard *Conaway v. Deane* and ruled that Maryland's Family Law Article, which says "only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid in this state," violated the Equal Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution. The Court of Appeals reversed the decision, but the Maryland House of Delegates is proposing to take action.

Patrick Armstrong, a member of the Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (DSAGA), said that he expected such a ruling from the Court of Appeals.

"Sadly, I wasn't surprised at all, because I know how government policies can give into prejudices and what's right is not always done. Homosexual relationships deserve equal rights and if they have partial rights then they seem inferior," he said. "Giving

partial rights to homosexuals is equally as insulting as saying they shouldn't exist at all."

President of DSAGA Keshav Khanijow expressed his consciousness that after the court decision, he felt like homosexuals were treated like second class citizens.

"Sexual orientation is a civil rights issue. You should have the right to marry whoever you want. I never really encountered discrimination, but [the ruling] was the first time I had to deal with critical discrimination. I realized I'm not necessarily valued; the court does not necessarily value my rights," he said.

Khanijow said that he has been trying to be more active in the community after his realization. After hearing about the

Maryland Court of Appeals' decision that day, he tried to gather as many DSAGA members as he could for a rally that evening. "We try not to be political or endorse candidates, but when it comes to basic rights for the community, we try to get more involved."

DSAGA members have been helping to get out the message that civil union is a civil right, and Khanijow said that the main thing that he and DSAGA can do now is go to Annapolis and talk to the state representatives on Lobby Day in February. "Once more states begin to accept gay marriage, it will become more commonplace and less of a taboo. The thing is that you have to take what you can get ... it's so humiliating but it's just the nature of the system, the nature of the beast. Equal rights for all would be nice,

but we have to understand the society we're living in," he said.

Del. Ben Barnes (D-21) will sponsor a bill, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, which allows gay couples the same rights as heterosexual couples. Del. Don Dwyer (D-31) put a similar bill in during the last General Assembly session, but it received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.

College Democrats President Jordan Libowitz was also not surprised by the outcome.

"Considering the make up of the court, the 'opinion' wasn't very surprising, nor was there a huge amount of outrage. It takes a liberal appeals court to change a law and what you saw in Boston is not going to happen," he said.

The College Democrats' opinion is that everyone should have equal rights, he said.

"We generally take a more accepting stance while they [College Republicans] take a more general one man-one woman stance," he said. When the court decision was reached last month, several members of the College Democrats went to a rally at a church.

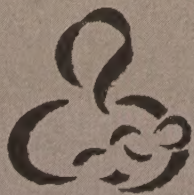
Sexual orientation is a civil rights issue. You should have the right to marry whoever you want.

— KESHAV KHANIJOW,
PRESIDENT OF THE DIVERSE
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Hostel provides B'more visitors with alternatives

By LINDSAY MUNNELLY
For The News-Letter

July was a busy month in Baltimore. The city played host to dozens of different events and festivals designed to help its citizens fill the endless summer hours. Camden Yards became the site for the African-American Heritage Festival, fireworks lit up the sky above the city on Independence Day, and on July 21, bookstores were overwhelmed with fans for the seventh *Harry Potter* book release.

Amidst these and many others, there was an additional celebration on July 1, one equally as anticipated: the reopening of the Baltimore Hostel.

"For any city to be prominent, to be proud of itself, it must have an international presence," Hostel Manager Matt Warfield said. "To have [a hostel] here really speaks to Baltimore and how it's coming up and changing."

Located on 17 W. Mulberry St., the original building was first established in 1857 and belonged to the Bennett family. In the past 150 years, the building has changed hands countless times. First it became a private home, then a sorority house and eventually a hostel in 1983.

"[The Hostel] closed in 1999 because of a number of things ... bad management, the neighborhood and the fact that Our Daily Bread was so close by,"



LAURA BITNER/ PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
The Hostel provides tourists with an appealing place to stay.



LAURA BITNER/ PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
The Baltimore Hostel allows Baltimore's visitors the opportunity to experience all the city has to offer at a convenient price.

Warfield said. "When they decided to reopen the building, they had to decide between an upscale international hotel and the hostel."

After briefly serving as an apartment building in 1999, the hostel was shut down and renovated.

A volunteer group called the Friends of the Baltimore Hostel was founded. They donated time, effort and money to restore the building, creating a comfortable and inviting atmosphere with new paint, carpets and a new attitude.

"A lot of the volunteers

have met their significant others through hostelling," Warfield said when asked why the group decided to revive the hostel. "You get to meet a lot of different people."

A map of the world stretches out along the staircase, inviting guests to the rooms upstairs. In the spacious common room, a welcoming collection of mismatched furniture sits in two or three smaller groups, arranged around antique fireplaces and a grand piano. Glass-top tables are covered with pamphlets about Baltimore, as well as international items collected by various artists.

The renovations have certainly made the hostel an attractive place for tourists, international and American alike. It sits in a quiet corner of Mount Vernon, across the street from the Baltimore Basilica and just a few blocks from the Inner Harbor and the Washington Monument.

"This is my first time at a hostel," said Ariya Mudhu, a guest who currently lives in Detroit but is originally from India. "So far,

it's been pretty good."

While the hostel offers 44 bedrooms and affordable rates — only \$25 a night — the management hasn't stopped there. They also host events as often as possible for their guests as well as for the surrounding community.

With the combination of an attractive site, a convenient location and a variety of events, the hostel has been successful so far, with every night bringing in more guests than anticipated.

"It's a lot of fun," said Judy Kuzmak, an employee who has worked at the hostel since June. "You get to meet different people from all over the world, so it's really exciting."

"We really want to introduce Baltimore to a segment of the world that's never had experience with it before. There are a lot of bad stereotypes that we want to dispel ... that it's dangerous, full of crime and there's not much to do. We want them to see the underground art and music scene. Right now we're featuring a local Baltimore photographer and one of his collections," Warfield said.

Dreamed Images, a collection of international photographs taken by William Schmidt, Jr., lines the mantle above the fireplace. Some are from as far away as Japan and Hong Kong; others were taken here in Baltimore.

"They're mainly to educate people about travel," Warfield said. "We also want to introduce the local Baltimore community to the hostel."

According to Warfield, the hostel hopes to continue to grow and expand, offering steadily running programs as well as reviving music events and fostering more interaction between the city and its guests. "The young crowd that's backpacking and hostelling in the U.S. is looking for something unique to this city," Warfield said. "We're looking to help them find it."

The hostel's next event is a talk about Australia to be given by Kristin Smith on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. Having traveled to Australia herself, Smith will be discussing the international experience, living abroad and hostelling in different countries.

Spring semester schedule changes are finalized

By SARAH GRANT
For The News-Letter

Convincing Hopkins students to sacrifice their four-day weekends for a more traditional five-week class spread does not seem like the easiest task. The new schedule for the spring 2008 semester is a transition from the current Monday through Wednesday schedule to the revised Monday/Wednesday/Friday set up.

Bill Conley, dean of enrollment and academic services was involved in the scheduling transition from the onset. "The issue has been on minds for a long time because the current Hopkins schedule was never a designated design, it just evolved." In that respect, Hopkins has always been an outlier within its peer group of universities, but the issue was only put into focus after 2003's Q report.

"Thirty proposed actions were relayed in detailed report from surveys of students, parents and administrators from a series of commissions and focus groups. One of the proposals was to review the academic schedule due to the sense of stress in current schedule," Conley said.

Another reason for the change is the fact that Peabody, the Public Health School and cross-registered schools like Goucher College are on more traditional schedules, making it difficult for students to coordinate classes.

According to Dean Falk of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, "In the view of the ongoing implementation of the new student information systems, it was decided that spring 2008 was the earliest that it would be feasible to move to the new schedule."

"The overarching change is that the current schedule is very imbalanced, where the bulk of the work is compressed into a small portion of the week and Thursdays and Fridays are relatively light," Conley said.

However, the decision to change the schedules was not based on a consensus. Convey said, "Some professors will argue that three classes in a row is more useful, some not. The bottom line is that the schedule as it is does reflect a notion that students suffered a bit from binge learning. Courses are highly compressed and continue to raise concerns about how students pace themselves between periods of intense stress and relaxation."

"During the planning stages, we ran scenarios of the typical student's schedule under the current system against that of a student's schedule under the new one to see if, in fact, there would be unexpected conflicts. We found that spreading out allowed more flexibility to select courses. Long-standing, even when hear[ing] from alums, they comment on the difficulty they had in taking preferred classes, either because of degree restrictions or large required courses in the sciences."

One important aspect of the revised schedule is plotting out science courses so they do not conflict. "Departments cannot schedule more than 50 percent of classes between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., which is called 'primetime' ... With additional days in the schedule, 'primetime' will be less compressed, and therefore more students will be able to take the classes they want to take."

One particular feature of the new schedule change is the extension of Writing Seminars class times. According to the chair of the Writing Seminars department, Dave Smith, "Our graduate courses are currently offered in 150-minute blocks so no change is required. The undergraduate courses have been historically offered in 100-minute blocks, or what we refer to as two-hour blocks. I am not personally teaching an undergraduate class until spring 2009. When I do teach it, I will be provided more opportunities to have the students read and discuss pertinent models in their study. For example, if we are studying metaphor, I will be able to look both more deeply at what metaphor is and how it best works and also to look at more diverse examples."

Students aware of the changes have diverse opinions on this issue. Junior BME major Adam Canver said, "Hopkins will largely benefit from the new system. First, the new system is similar

to most other comparable schools (from my limited understanding), it better balances the week, takes a lot of stress off the week-end and the first few days of the week when most assignments are due."

Freshman mathematics major Shane

Steinart-Thelkeld echoed the sentiment: "It seemed like a good change, but that was mainly since almost all other schools have a schedule resembling the new one. The change has its pros/cons. This semester, I had a lot of conflicts when trying to plan my schedule because fewer classes seemed to have Thursday-Friday lectures. Of course, the way it is now, my Thursdays and Fridays are very easy compared to Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday, which makes for a nice pre-weekend break."

A more practical effect of the new schedule addresses the problem of unused resources and classroom availability in the current schedule. Conley said, "We think there may be some unforeseen conflicts, but to date, all departments have submitted course offerings for spring and those have been placed in the schedule ... No system is perfect, but we'll want to see how the spring works, and there will be some things that we will learn about the course distribution and some fine tuning for the following fall semester. But we are pretty confident in the utilization of classrooms and a more reasonable distribution of students as the best course of action for Hopkins."

College tuition costs still on the rise

By HUSAIN DANISH
News-Letter Staff Writer

In his first speech to George Washington University's Board of Trustees on Oct. 19, GWU's President and former Hopkins Provost Steven Knapp called for an increase in affordability at the University, citing its negative impact on the institution's image.

"I am personally not happy with seeing this institution at the top of the list of prices," Knapp said during the board meeting.

Currently, GWU is the most expensive institution in the country. According to Knapp, the price has led to the perception that the University costs more than it is worth.

Hopkins officials do not believe the University's tuition is detrimental to its reputation.

"I don't think it has a negative impact," said Jerome Schnydman, secretary of the Board of Trustees and executive assistant to the president.

"If the best schools, like the Ivy Leagues, charge the most, while the not-so-good schools charge less, then some people begin to associate high quality with high price. People are willing to spend more to go to better schools. I don't think people are pushed away in the end by finances. Hopefully our financial aid will be there for those people."

According to Schnydman, Hopkins' tuition is at the same level as other competitive institutions such as the Ivy League schools. Thousands of students continue to apply to Hopkins every year, evidence that the tuition has not dissuaded anyone from applying.

"When I came here, there was talk about increasing tuition to \$10,000 a year," Schnydman said. "A lot of people worried that if we did so, less people would come. However, when we increased the tuition, the applications continued to come. We have since

then increased tuition to \$20,000, \$25,000 and so on. So far, we haven't priced ourselves out. We may in the future, but, at the moment, I don't think we have."

College tuition continues to rise across the country. According to the College Board's 2007 report "Trends in College Pricing," tuition and costs at private institutions increased by 6.2 percent from 2006-2007. In 2006, tuition at Hopkins rose 7.2 percent from \$31,620 to \$33,900. In 2007, the tuition rose 5.9 percent to \$35,900. The College Board reported that only six percent of four-year universities charge over \$33,000.

Currently, the administration has not begun discussing any possible increases in tuition for the 2008-2009 school year.

"There have been no talks to cap or decrease tuition, to my knowledge," Jerome D. Schnydman said.

School officials have mostly remained mute with regards to Knapp's comments.

"I can't give an opinion; every school is different," said Adam Falk, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. "We don't decide our tuition based on the actions of other schools."

Inflation has been cited as the leading reason for increasing tuition rates. However, tuition hikes have been much greater than the current rates of inflation for several years. According to the College Board, tuition increases at private institutions have been, on average, 2.9 percent greater than the rate of inflation.

"There are two ways to measure inflation," said James McGill, senior vice president for finance and administration. "There is the Consumer Price Index which most people think of and then there is the Higher Education Price Index." Universities tend to have greater expenses than other institutions; as a result, costs tend to increase more rapidly in the university environment than

in the market.

"There are also other special costs which need to be taken under consideration," McGill said. These include increased security as well as the construction and maintenance of new buildings.

"Our conversations about tuition increases are very involved every year," Falk said. "We realize that they are real burdens on families. However, tuition is a poor proxy of the larger issue of affordability."

"It's overly simplistic to look at tuition alone. None of this takes place in a vacuum. We want to make Hopkins more affordable," he said.

Financial aid has a major role in making Hopkins more affordable.

"When I speak of financial aid, I am talking about grants, not loans," McGill said. According to McGill, there is a great emphasis on increasing the number of student grants while decreasing the number of student loans.

"It's true that loans provide immediate assistance, but, in the end, they have to be paid back."

For every dollar of tuition paid, approximately 25 cents goes to financial aid.

"Remember that tuition net of financial aid has remained roughly constant over the last few years," Dean Falk said.

A formal recommendation on increasing GWU's affordability is expected to be issued at the February meeting of the Board of Trustees. Knapp, however, has not called for a decrease in tuition at GWU.

In an interview in the *GW Hatchet* on Oct. 29, Knapp said that lowering the tuition is not an option. In a statement from Knapp's office, he claimed he did not state in front of the Board of Trustees that GWU should strive to decrease its tuition but rather, he wished to make the school accessible to all those who want to study at the University.

SECURITY ALERTS

Oct. 23 at 7:26 p.m.: Two males approached a graduate student walking alone three blocks southeast of campus. Stating that they had a knife, the suspects demanded the student's money. They drove off after receiving his wallet. Investigation continuing.

Oct. 24 at 11:10 a.m.: A graduate student was approached by a man who asked if he had a cell phone, and who subsequently tried to steal his shoulder bag. The student resisted and waved at traffic and the suspect fled. Investigation continuing.

Oct. 26: A student's car was broken into through the window, and a radio was stolen. Investigation continuing.

Oct. 26: A student's unattended bag was lost at the Den, leading to the loss of keys, wallet, J-Card and cell phone. Investigation continuing.

Oct. 27 at 2:10 a.m.: An intoxicated undergraduate reports being assaulted and struck after exchanging words with a group of six or seven other college-age males. Investigation continuing.

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Hopkins sustainability receives a B-

Hopkins' administrative policies and transportation innovations helped to boost JHU's grade

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
Bookhart, Manager of Energy and Environmental Stewardship for the University.

Although Hopkins received As and Bs in six categories (including "Climate Change and Energy" and "Green Building"), the Report chastised the University for how it handles the endowment.

One of the failing grades was in the category "Endowment Transparency," which evaluates the ease with which the public can access a list of the University's endowment holdings and proxy voting record.

The Report claims that a free flow of investment information helps to "foster constructive dialogue about opportunities for clean energy investment, as well as shareholder voting priorities."

Hopkins does not make this information readily available to anyone except members of the University administration and those who are on the Committee on Investments (a part of the Board of Trustees).

"It is not in Johns Hopkins's interest to publicize widely its investments or strategies," Chief Investment Officer Kathryn Crecelius said. "Our job is to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment — net of payout — for current and future students. That is the way we view 'sustainability.'"

Hopkins was not alone in its poor grade for transparency — 58 percent of all colleges that the Institute evaluated received an F. Hopkins's other failing grade came in the "Shareholder Engagement" category, in which the Institute evaluates how colleges conduct shareholder proxy voting.

Because colleges invest their

endowments, they have the opportunity to consider and vote on sustainability-related shareholder resolutions.

The Institute suggests that colleges allow faculty, students and alumni to form a committee in which these decisions can be made.

Hopkins makes these decisions via its investment managers.

"We choose our investment managers carefully and delegate to them proxy voting. They understand the companies best and are best positioned to vote in the interest of shareholders," Crecelius said.

Hopkins joined 66 percent of colleges in receiving this failing grade.

These abysmal grades aside, Hopkins did very well in several categories — even being designated a "leader" in its administrative and transportation policies.

In administration, the Report Card applauded the Johns Hopkins Sustainability Initiative, headed by Bookhart,

which is tasked with making Hopkins "a showpiece of environmental leadership by demonstrating smart, sensible and creative actions that promote the vision of sustainability," according to its Web site. The 'A' that Hopkins

received in this category was a full letter grade improvement over the 2007 report.

The Institute also cited the President's Sustainability Committee, which includes representatives from each of the 10 academic divisions and major offices, in its evaluation of the administrative category.

All of the categories in which Hopkins received an A or a B are overseen by Bookhart's office.

Hopkins's 'B' grades in "Climate Change & Energy," "Food & Recycling" or "Green Building," did not change between 2007 and 2008, which was somewhat surprising to Bookhart.

"I think that last year, we started a program where we were just getting started ... [This year] we just had another year," he said.

"This year we will have lots of projects that we started last year. There will be a dorm energy competition in the spring, a green idea generator as a way for students to be hands on," Bookhart said.

The 'A' that Hopkins received for transportation was justified by the JHMI shuttle service. Hopkins boasts the second largest bus system in the state and is experimenting with a biodiesel blend of fuel.

The Report Card also applauded the University's support of bicyclists with commuting workshops and tune-ups.

University officials seemed somewhat ambivalent toward the report.

"Nothing will be done in reaction to the report card. We think about what would be best for JHU; we're less likely to think about what the report card said," Bookhart said.

Bookhart noted something that he thought was missing from the Report.

"There isn't a category on student involvement. Some of the accomplishments we've had were student run. We are a university! If there was a category on student involvement, we would get a good grade on that as well," he said.

Still, the Report provided the University with a record of a concrete step toward sustainability, at least as defined by the Institute.

"My final reaction is that I am pleased. There is a long way to go. I hope the Report Card goes beyond looking at the grade; the Report Card reminds us why [sustainability] is important," Bookhart said.

ESL classes benefit both students and TAs alike

By JESSIE YOUNG
For the News-Letter

One of students' biggest pet peeves is Teaching Assistants with thick accents and poor English.

That's the reason the Language Teaching Center created the English for International TAs program: To train and screen TAs before they are ready to teach in the classroom.

According to instructor and coordinator Doris Shiffman, the program was founded 18 years ago as a response to undergraduates' complaints about having trouble understanding their international TAs.

Since then, the program has grown from just one course to two courses with two sections each, in addition to a summer program designed to orient new TAs for large departments such as chemistry, physics and math.

Graduate students from the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and the Whiting School of Engineering who intend to become TAs and need help



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
An undergraduate and a TA work together to help improve their language skills.

with their English are recommended to use the program by their departments. They are then screened and placed in appropriate level classes.

"We help them with their language, help them understand the culture of the American classroom, and give them hints on teaching," Shiffman said.

Altogether, over the course of the year, about 50 students participate in the classes. During the academic year, two classes are offered: Oral Skills for International Teaching Assistants and Communication Strategies in the American Classroom.

In Oral Skills, which meets three times a week, students practice listening, speaking and

pronunciation using authentic materials, such as recordings of undergraduates talking about their lives at Hopkins. Students are asked to imitate the speech of native speakers and learn jargon that may be heard around the classroom.

Picnics and dinners throughout the year help the TAs learn about undergraduate culture. The second course, Communication Strategies, is a higher-level class that helps students fine-tune their communication skills.

"This class is for students who have done better in their English testing, but who still need some extra help," Shiffman said. "We work on all the vocabulary of the classroom and nonverbal communication. We work with helping them know when to smile, how to use the board, how to stay in eye contact."

Students then practice teaching by making administrative announcements, explaining simple concepts from their fields and going over homework problems.

For Guofan Hu, a physics graduate student TA from China, the most helpful thing about the program is the opportunity to experience American language and culture firsthand.

"This is the first time I've been to America, so I have never been in an ESL program before," he said. "The most helpful thing is I have to speak for nearly one hour for three days a week [for Oral Skills]."

Zheng Zhang, another Chinese student in the physics department who just arrived in America two months ago, also finds the course helpful even though he has taken English courses in China in the past.

"The pronunciation I learned in China is a little different from the pronunciation that people have here," Zhang said. "The English class helps me to improve a lot."



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Teachers help to run the ESL classes at Hopkins.

Officials react to study showing Baltimore has "excessive" rate of staph infections

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
nearly 100 percent, with one student requiring hospital care to receive intravenous antibiotics.

The Maryland ABCs site conducts active, laboratory based surveillance for a variety of bacterial pathogens, including MRSA. This surveillance was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Active surveillance involves frequent contact with hospitals to identify cases of MRSA infection not reported spontaneously.

"We have contacts in all hospitals [and] laboratories that perform cultures on Baltimore City residents with invasive MRSA infections," Harrison said.

Harrison could not explain why the rate in Baltimore was so high as compared to the other sites studied.

"The bottom line is that we really don't know for sure," Harrison said. "One possibility is that Baltimore City, a highly urban area, is being compared to other ABCs sites, which include more of a mix of urban, suburban and rural areas."

"It's comparing apples to oranges," said Laura Herrera, chief medical officer for the Baltimore City Health Department. She noted that chronic diseases are more prevalent in urban areas.

According to Harrison, it would be difficult to monitor the rate of MRSA infections in other areas. "Unfortunately, the number of ABCs sites is limited and it is very difficult to generate an accurate picture of MRSA disease burden in an area without doing the type of active surveillance we do in ABCs," Harrison said.

He added that the Maryland ABCs is discussing plans to modify MRSA surveillance in Baltimore by possibly monitoring all of Baltimore County and identifying the MRSA strains found in the city.

"I am hoping that, now that we have defined the public health burden of invasive MRSA infection, preventive measures will be increased," Harrison said.

"More information needs to be collected before a plan is put in place," said Herrera, who added that the Health Department is currently taking inventory of hospitals and other health care providers and requesting that they disclose MRSA infection statistics.

Anthony McCarthy, director of communications for Mayor Sheila Dixon, declined to comment. "We all have a lot of work to do to get a handle on MRSA," said Nancy Fiedler, spokesperson for the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA).

"We need to be vigilant and we need to be aggressive," State Senator Lisa Gladden said. She has announced plans to resubmit a bill which would require Maryland hospitals and nursing homes to identify patients who carry or are infected by MRSA.

The bill, which Gladden said follows guidelines established by the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), would also isolate patients who are infected with MRSA and require strict adherence to hand washing regulations.

An Oct. 17 article in the *Baltimore Sun* stated that the MHA is opposed to statewide mandates requiring the testing of all hospital patients for MRSA.

But according to Fiedler, while the MHA has "concerns about taking guidelines and putting them in legislation," it did not oppose the bill but rather supported an alternative version.

"The Hospital Association hates us and hates this bill," said Gladden, who said that the bill MHA supported was not enough.

"Whatever they are doing, is not effective. Since the only protocols shown to be effective in dealing with MRSA are the SHEA guidelines, let's start there," she said.

Harrison was also wary of legislation that would dictate clinical and hospital practice but conceded that "many hospitals that have an MRSA problem are testing patients for and isolating patients with MRSA, which is crucial to control the spread."

Herrera said that establishing guidelines in legislation was premature.

Gladden previously introduced the bill last year, when she said it received three votes.

"I know that heightened awareness starts the process of moving a very big ball forward up a very steep hill, but that doesn't mean bill gets passed," she said.

She hopes to introduce the MRSA legislation when regular session begins in January.

The report further stated that "incidence rates were consistently higher among blacks compared with whites in the various age groups."

The reason for this high rate among blacks is unknown, said Harrison.

"We are in the process of designing analyses to address this question."

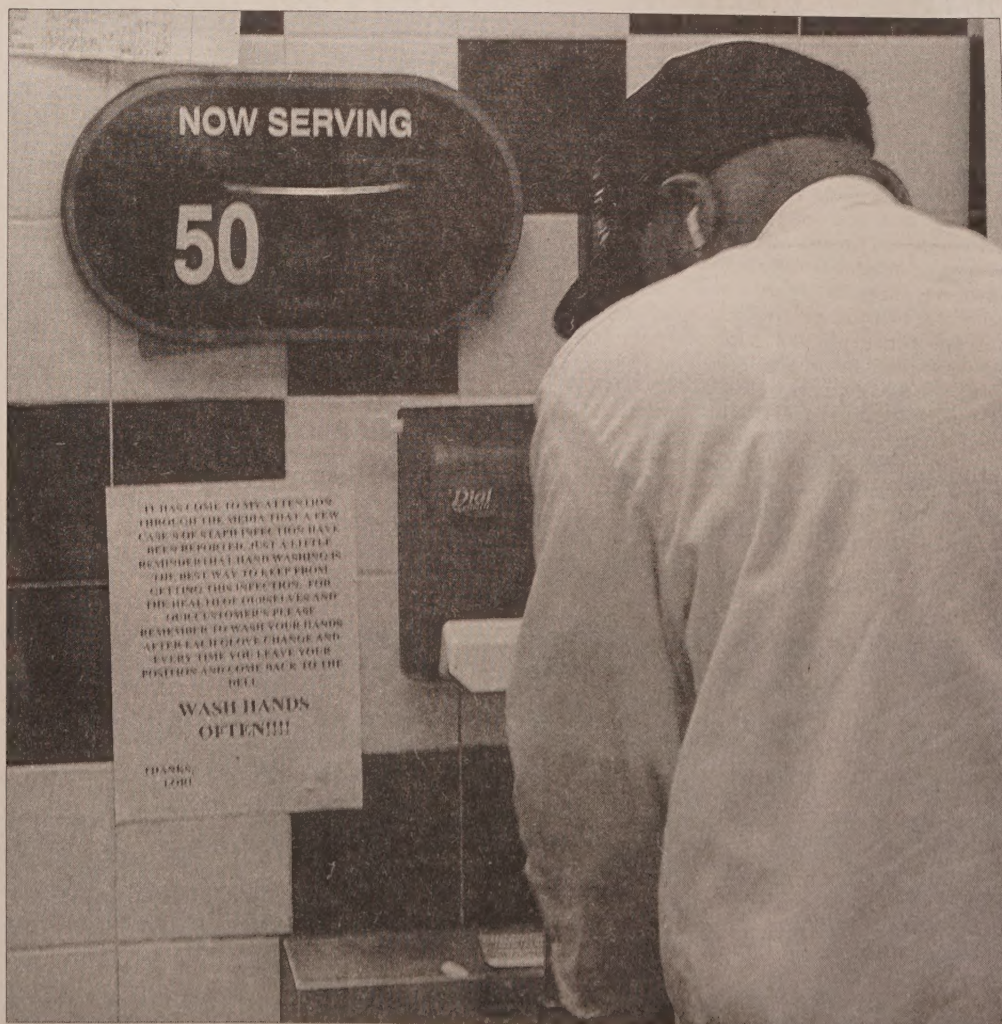
The report noted that "the prevalence of underlying conditions, at least some of which vary by race, may play a role," and that "MRSA infection prevalence has been linked to socioeconomic status, and this might confound the association between race and incidence."

The report also found that while most MRSA infections were associated with health care, 58 percent occurred outside of the hospital.

"Community-associated MRSA did not emerge until the 1990's and has been increasing at an alarming rate since then," Harrison said.

"Both hospital-associated and community-associated MRSA infections have become endemic in the United States."

Scientists attribute this emergence of drug-resistant bacteria to the inappropriate use of antibiotics in both the hospital and the community.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Workers at Eddie's Market take special precautions to wash their hands as drug-resistant staph infections become prevalent.

While antibiotics such as penicillin are very effective at killing bacteria, the bacteria that survive because of mutations emerge more virulent and resistant than the original bacteria.

The concern for many is that MRSA could become resistant to even stronger antibiotics. "Right now, MRSA strains, even though they are resistant to traditional antibiotics, are sensitive to antibiotics with minimal side effects," Joffe said.

Joffe added that while Hopkins students are not particularly susceptible to MRSA infections, students living in close quarters in the dorms "would theoretically be put at a higher risk."

He added that student athletes who participate in contact sports are most susceptible to MRSA infections because of their consistent exposure to skin-on-skin contact.

"We've been aware of staph infections for a long time," Head Athletic Trainer Brad Mountcastle said. While Hopkins athletic training has not yet seen a case of MRSA infection, Mountcastle said that he has been warned, "It's not a matter of not getting it — it's when."

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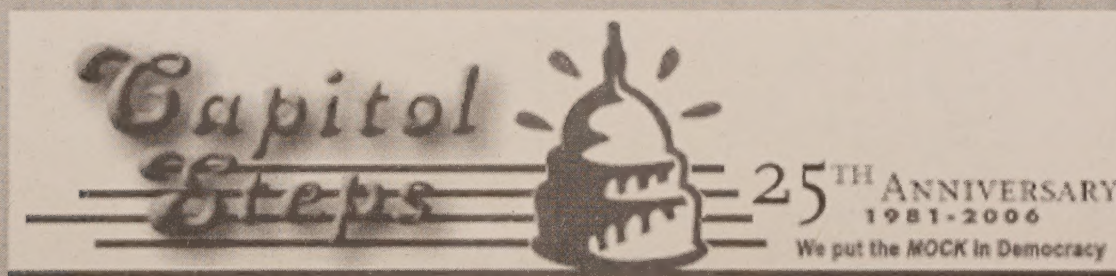
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Levering Hall

Dedication ceremony celebrates official opening of the Decker Quad

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
toward the creation of Mason Hall.

Though Saturday was the first time Mason saw the building, he seemed happy with the outcome, saying that the buildings and quad "bring back the school's tradition because the buildings resemble each other."

Mason insisted that he owes his involvement in the project to Jerry Shnyder (looking for his real name), who originally proposed to him the idea of building a new quad on what used to be a parking lot and baseball field.

The quadrangle was named after the late Al Decker of the Black & Decker Company and his wife, Virginia Decker. Al Decker

was elected to the board of trustees in 1968 and was the first person to raise \$100 million for the University.

Located on the southern end of the quad, Mason Hall houses the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, alumni meeting rooms, the Visitors' Center and the Public Relations Office. The building is now the first place prospective students see as they set foot on campus.

"It's a great place for us to work and do the best we can," Director of Undergraduate Admissions John Latting said.

According to Latting, before the move, the Admissions Office was always crowded and looking for other offices to do their work in. Latting took these concerns to

the administration and praised Brody's response. "He asked me about what change I would want to make and that was it. He really made it happen," Latting said.

The tour guides explained that Mason Hall is supposed to make visitors feel at home. The hallways are lined with wood-framed photographs of students playing sports, studying and performing science experiments throughout the years.

Architects from Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott, the firm responsible for design and creation of the quad, worked with many people on campus to find such archives and memorabilia that would create the impression of combining tradition with moving forward, according to Lead Designer Tom Kearns.

"The project touches with the whole University and that's why it's so good — it's not just the architects," said Kearns, who is also a principal architect for the firm.

The Computational Science and Engineering Building, which will not be fully completed until December, is filled with labs, auditoriums, offices and research areas.

Work on the Comp Sci building has not been completed because a federal grant for a Human Language Technology Center of Excellence has not yet been approved, according to Director of Communications and Public Relations Dennis O'Shea.

Construction is "fitting out space that originally wasn't even going to be accounted for by this time. Originally there was going to be some shell space, space left vacant for future needs," O'Shea said.

The building houses the Institute for Computational Medicine, the Laboratory for Computational Sensing and Robotics, the NSF Engineering Research Center for Computer-Integrated Surgical Systems and Technology, and the Center for Language and Speech Processing.

Marcin Balicki, a graduate student in mechanical engineering, believes that the building is very "conducive to keeping us here," Balicki explained that many of the researchers who work in the building work strenuous hours, and the new structure helps to "raise the morale of students" and bring them closer together.

The robotics laboratory is one of few groups that are already moved into the building and are quite satisfied. Balicki explained that the building brings together many different types of engineers who can now collaborate with more ease than before.

According to O'Shea, a second celebration will be held in March to welcome the Whiting School



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Administrators, alumni, students and more attended the official opening of the new Quad.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Hopkins celebrated the opening of its newest Quadrangle with a fireworks show.

community to the building.

Director of Design and Construction Travis Nelson said that he believes the new quadrangle works seamlessly with the rest of campus because "it is simple, and feels just right for the campus," but he also said that this final outcome was "not where we started."

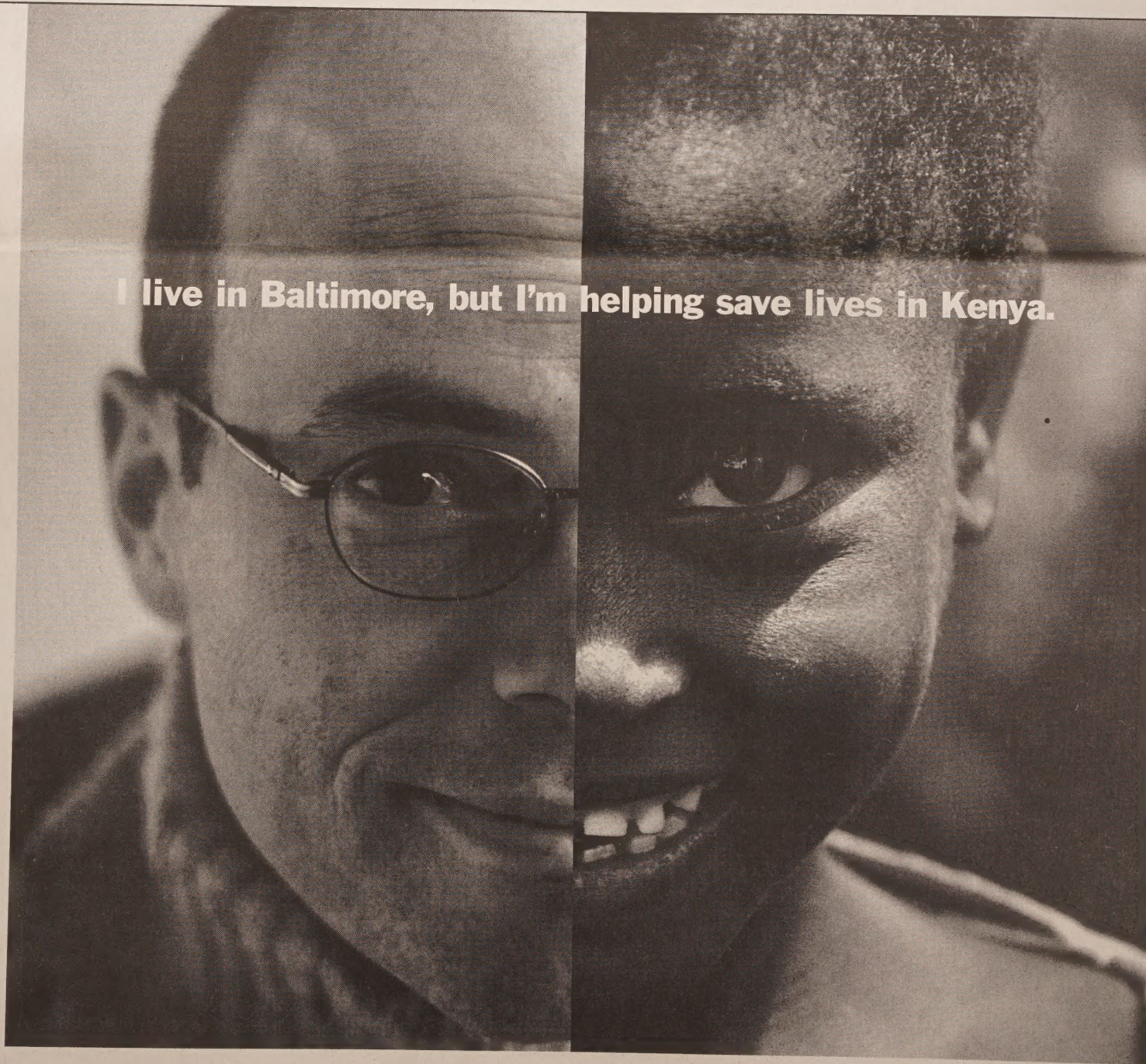
Nelson described the original ideas for the quad as "peculiar," but in the end they returned to this more traditional design because it fits with the Georgian-style architecture found on campus.

While the guests ate dinner,

slides of the construction and short films on the lives of students and donors were shown. The actual presentation consisted of speeches made by Brody, Mason, Chair of Trustees Pamela Flaherty and others.

Virginia Decker graciously accepted praise and a glass bowl that Axel Krieger, a doctoral candidate and mechanical engineering student, delivered to her on his bike.

Mason finished off the presentation with a short speech, saying that the new quad will be a great "welcoming center to all of those who visit."



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A year later, little changed in light of Sigma Chi Gupta appointed first dean of business school

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
on BSU members to testify.

"The BSU's goals were never punitive," Pennicooke said. "We wanted [Park] to understand how his actions were offensive. Our goals have always been educational."

The BSU urged the University to open discussions on racism between students and faculty. In September, the University hosted a forum with author Beverly Daniel Tatum. Incoming students were required to read Tatum's book, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race*, to encourage a dialogue on racism.

The BSU would like to see the University do more to promote discussions on racism.

"That's a step in the right direction," Pennicooke said. "The next step would be to have a dialog between the administration and the students. After discussion, cultural groups will come together."

"There is certainly more to discuss on the issue of what is offensive," said Dorothy Sheppard, associate dean of students.

"We need to provide whatever outreach we can provide and be as proactive as we can be to promote discussion. I don't want students to be afraid to say anything for fear that what they say will be viewed as offensive. I'd like to have a safe environment where students feel like they can have open discussions about differences," Sheppard said.

In the weeks and months immediately following the incident, Sigma Chi worked with the BSU and others to try to raise awareness for the racial issues faced by the campus, according to Connell.

"This incident has made us a lot more aware of each other," said Rob Turning, coordinator of Greek Life.

"The IFC-type groups are more aware of the historically black groups, who are in turn more aware of Asian interest groups. This event has brought every group together. It's opened their eyes to the diversity in Greek life."

"I can't speak for all the Greeks, but it seems that Sigma Chi is generally interested in reaching out to the community and making sure that their programming in the future is very positive and brings students together rather than dividing them," Sheppard said.

"The events and resulting punishment have had a profound impact on Sigma Chi," Connell said.

"Since the incident, we have done our best

to work with the administration and community to try to have as positive an impact on those around us as possible since the events of last year."

The University placed Sigma Chi on social probation through Jan. 5, 2008. The probation required the fraternity to hold eight cultural events.

"We've done our best to tighten our bonds with both the University and the community," Connell said.

In the past year, as part of its cultural events, Sigma Chi worked with Delta Xi Phi, the



FILE PHOTO

The Black Student Union, which first brought the incident to light, has asked the University to open more discussions on racism.

multicultural sorority, and SASH to bring to campus an Indian comedian, who addressed the effects of race on young people.

The fraternity also co-sponsored concerts with Peabody. Additionally, Sigma Chi made sandwiches for homeless shelters and attended a University-sponsored field trip to Baltimore's Reginald F. Lewis Black History Museum.

Pennicooke stressed that cultural forums should speak to all cultures.

"Black students, Latino students, Asian students, white students—" Pennicooke said, "Cultural awareness should speak to the entire Hopkins community."

Connell explained that due to the fraternity's proactive and

positive lessons were taken from this event and know that even one year later it is still discussed. I have seen a lot of positive growth in the Greek organizations that I have worked with. They have all taken steps to better handle their social events and have been very receptive

to my suggestions. Because of their work, parties are more controlled, the coming and going of guests flows better and the handling of party-related trash has improved."

"Since last year, the office of Greek Life has made it easier for Greek organizations to register parties," Turning said. "Instead of a paper form it's all an online process now. We've done a more blatant job of telling the presidents that they need to let us know what's going on."

Turning credits the increase in registered parties to the new system.

"It's a process that's building," he said.

Turning believes students are being more careful now when planning events.

"That's the most noticeable thing," he said.

"There's more thought going into the process. People are more aware of what's acceptable and what's not, or what may or may not offend someone."

"I did not run into any difficulties this past weekend in regards to any of the Halloween celebrations or other social events," Bennett said. "Those who went out seemed to have had a good time."

"Black students mostly want this whole affair to go away," Pennicooke said. He explained that black students grew tired of the protesting, and did not want the rest of their college experiences to be ruled by anger over the situation.

"We're collaborators. We're trying to branch out. We don't want to have to take on the role of fighting for a specific cultural faction," he said.

Black student enrollment in the freshman class is up from 73 to 93 this year, according to Dean of Enrollment and Academic Services William Conley.

"Admissions responded to the incident by working hard with undergraduate students. We wanted to redouble our efforts in giving Hopkins an image of being committed to the recruitment of multicultural students," he said.

Conley said

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
with as many people as possible. This will help him delineate the school's strategic plan.

"Once we have defined that strategic plan, we will determine how much faculty we need, what professors to hire and what kind of students the school should foster," Gupta said. "We want our students to come from around the world."

Gupta predicts that after five or six months, the plan will start to develop and answer questions such as how much experience, and what kind of background students and faculty of the school should possess. According to Gupta, the plan will also consider what kind of graduate and undergraduate education the school should provide.

Currently the only program available to undergraduates through the Carey Business School is a minor in entrepreneurship and management, but Gupta would like to talk to people of different affiliations of the school before determining precisely how to expand.

It is Gupta's willingness to cooperate with and listen to others on a very interdepartmental campus that helped make him such an attractive candidate. Selection committee member Nichols said that Gupta "really impressed all of us with his positive energy."

Gupta's success as dean of the University of Southern California, the University of Washington and the University of Colorado at Denver also helped him beat out 200 other candidates. According to selection committee member Edgar Roulac, the school enlisted aid from representatives across all academic divisions of the University and Carey Business School alumni, a student, as well as external search firm Isaacson Miller.

The selection committee's duties ended when they presented Brody with three unranked final-

ists for the dean position. Roulac said that "it became clear that any of the three could run the school and do a good job."

Unfortunately, due to candidate confidentiality, the names of the other two finalists cannot be disclosed at this time.

Gupta accepted his offer as what he recognizes is an "amazing opportunity."

"There are not very many times in one's life that you get to create a new school from the ground-up," he said. "And to build one in a world-class university, with expectations and aspirations to become a world-class school — it is an amazing opportunity."

However, Gupta admits that fear accompanies his excitement.

"Every time you create something new there are a lot of challenges," he said. "That's why I'm interested. Can we make it? I believe we can make it. But if you never have a feeling of fear you'll never get there. The sense of perfection comes from fear."

It is this drive for perfection that will help make Hopkins a world-class leader in business. There is currently criticism in the business world that schools do not adequately teach students leadership and ethics, but simply opportunism. Gupta wants to have more well-rounded graduates.

"Hopkins is a natural place to create leaders," he said. "The University is biologically created to form leaders. It's how you treat students, what kind of curriculum you develop. Knowledge is a good thing, but knowledge without character is dangerous. If you treat students professionally and ethically there shouldn't be ethical issues."

Vice-Provost Pamela Cramson acted as interim dean of the Business School, and shares the committee's very high hopes for Gupta. "He is a proven leader," she said. "I have huge respect for the deans at Hopkins. Their jobs are 24/7."

— Additional reporting by
Sammy Rose Saltzman



FILE PHOTO

Justin Park appealed to have his sentence "substantially reduced."

continued community service, they are allowed to have up to three social events this semester, with the requirement that prior to each event 50 percent of the members participate in an additional hands-on community service activity.

Each event will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

"I'm not certain that any changes I have seen in Greek Life can be directly or solely accredited to last year's incident," said Caroline Bennett, student-community liaison.

"I feel confident that certain



FILE PHOTO

The NAACP protested alongside students following Sigma Chi's controversial Halloween in the Hood party.

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Strong ties unite the residents of Little Italy

By LEAH MAINIERO
For The News-Letter

Just a short stroll east from the Inner Harbor, the crowds and commotion of downtown Baltimore give way to blocks of brick row houses proudly displaying Italian flags and advertisements for small cafés and ristoranti. Brightly-colored storefronts, wrought-iron benches and pots of flowers line the quiet streets, while on every corner a different delicious aroma wafts from one of over 20 charming eateries. Overhead, archways of festive Christmas lights spell out the words "Little Italy," marking the entrance into an ethnic Baltimore neighborhood full of old-world character, charm and taste.

Originally founded by immigrant railroad workers in the late 1800s, Little Italy has grown into a tight-knit community situated between two of Baltimore's greatest attractions: Fells Point and the Inner Harbor.

"Most people think [Little Italy] is very far away, but it's really only a block away from the Inner Harbor," said Alexandra Clavert, a 17-year-old Fells Point resident. In fact, a mere five-minute walk from the Colletgetown shuttle's Inner Harbor stop will take any student into the heart of Little Italy. More adventurous visitors can even hop on one of the Harbor's water taxis or horse-drawn carriages and enjoy the sights of the Harbor on their way there.

The various attractions of the Inner Harbor combined with the allure of Fells Point's nightlife may explain why Little Italy is not a more frequent destination for young people.

However, among some college students, certain restaurants have developed into local legends.

According to Amanda Barrett, the manager of Vaccaro's Italian Pastry Shop, "Lots of college students come through [Little Italy] for all-you-can-eat nights." Barrett is referring to "Monday night specials," where groups of students flood Vaccaro's family style din-

ing area for unlimited amounts of cannolis, cassatas, tiramisu, gelato, cappuccino and almost any type of sundae or pastry imaginable for under \$13. Teri Montagna, a frequent diner at Ciao Bella Restaurant, also noted that in an effort to attract young customers, "Some of the other restaurants like Sabatino's stay open very late, sometimes [until] 3 a.m.," making Little Italy an ideal stop for a meal before or after a night out on the town.

The quiet streets of Little Italy take on a carnival atmosphere complete with food, games and live music during the annual St. Anthony, St. Gabriel and Taste of Italy festivals. These summer and early-autumn festivals never fail to draw huge crowds, as restaurants provide samples of their specialties and vendors set up booths catering to both children and adults. Teams from as far away as Delaware come to compete against locals for the championship in bocce ball, a true Italian pastime that takes place in Little Italy's very own tricolore-draped bocce court. But of all of the attractions and activities Little Italy has to offer, residents agree that "the summer movies are a must." On warm nights, locals set up an al fresco movie theater, where hundreds of people come to watch a movie under the stars.

"Every Friday during the summer, they close off the street. People bring their lawn chairs and their kids and dinner or sometimes just cheese and wine, and watch an old movie with an Ital-

ian theme. They make it a family affair," Montagna said. She points to a rowhouse a block down the street. "The man over there lets them project the movie from his bedroom window and onto that wall." Movie screenings in the past have included *Moonstruck*, *Rocky Balboa*, *Only You*, and, of course, *The Godfather*.

How close does *The Godfather* come to portraying the real Little Italy? "It's a local joke that this is still the first neighborhood to be snowplowed in the winter," Calvert said with a grin. "Some people in this area still have political connections." Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), the daughter of an Italian-American Baltimore mayor who spend her childhood in Little Italy, is perhaps the most notable political figure with roots in Little Italy.

Despite the history, the events and, of course, the fantastic food, it is the unique combination of residents living in Little Italy that give the neighborhood its character. Walk down any block and you may hear elderly couples conversing in Italian, young chil-

dren laughing and playing on the sidewalks and people in their early twenties chatting with each other or talking on cell phones.

"There's a good mix of people here," said Phillip Culotta, manager of Sabatino's Restaurant on the corner of Fawn and South High Street. "Our neighbors across the street have been here for years. It's a quaint and yet vibrant community ... and you always see locals sitting on the steps or out on the benches during warm weather."

Montagna, taking in some fresh air on a seat in front of Ciao Bella Restaurant, described the community as, "extremely friendly and family-oriented, both within immediate and extended family. People become very close to their neighbors, and out here there's always someone to say hello to." Neighbors often socialize and "people-watch" from one of the benches stationed along every street and lining the fronts of shops, leading one valet worker to quip, "The locals love the benches." One thing is for sure: When in Little Italy, you will never have to worry about finding a place to sit.

Locals also note the central role the St. Leo the Great Roman Catholic Church plays in drawing the community. St. Leo's organizes much of the festival activities, hosts bi-annual pasta dinners and plans much of the neighborhood Christmas celebrations.

A source of stability and tradition, St. Leo holds a mass in Italian every Sunday, as well as offering various bilingual and Latin services. However, while St. Leo's presence in the neighborhood is still going strong, its congregation may be gradually be dwindling, as locals note that the traditionally Roman Catholic, Italian community has transitioned over recent years.

"The feel of the neighborhood is changing. Many Italians are renovating houses into apartments and renting them out to college students. And now many people moving in here work downtown," Culotta said.

Clavert agreed that, "Residents here are a real mixture. You may see one house with people who have been here since the '70s and right next to them a rented home with college students."

A renewed focus on tourism and pricier rents for newly-renovated apartments in Little Italy are threatening the community's affordable, family-friendly atmosphere, indicating that the city's efforts to revive downtown Baltimore may inadvertently be destroying the Little Italy community.

But while the well-established family businesses remain, Little Italy will continue to be the community Baltimoreans have come to love. Certainly restaurants like Sabatino's, established 52 years ago by Culotta's great uncle, will not be disappearing anytime soon.



COURTESY OF LEAH MAINIERO

Sabatino's Restaurant sits in the heart of Little Italy, a quaint and vibrant neighborhood near the harbor.

Meditations on the life of Hopkins Buddhists

At weekly meetings, student members of the JHU Buddhist Society balance school stress with Zen teachings and wisdom

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

importance of living in the moment and focusing your attention upon the present and future. After a test that perhaps hasn't gone well or a really stressful week, I remind myself that it's okay to make mistakes — that the important thing is to fully engage in the present moment."

The Four Noble Truths are some of the main teachings of Buddhism.

These truths deal with the reality of suffering in the world and the necessity of ending the cycle of suffering by following the Noble Eightfold Path, which deals with everything from right speech to right actions, concentration and livelihood.

Globally, there exist dozens of different Buddhist sects; the diversity of the religion is represented at Hopkins as well with many members of the JHU Buddhist Society following different traditions and teachings.

Scot is a Jodo-Shinshu Buddhist, although she initially came to the religion through the teachings of Zen Buddhism.

Chen practices Tibetan Buddhism, while Sean Carver, a post-doctoral student in the Psychological and Brain Sciences Department, describes himself as a "Western Buddhist" — he came to the religion through reading the works of mainly Western authors.

Chen discovered her interest in Buddhism in a similar manner — she attended a lecture being given by Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche, a Bhutanese lama, or religious teacher.

Her interest sparked, Chen began to read books on Tibetan Buddhism and talk with religion teachers.

"It was through these encounters with religion that I discovered just how well Buddhism answered my questions regarding existence, the existing process, and death," Chen said.

While members of other world religions tend to inherit their faith through familial ties, many of the members of the JHU Buddhist Society became Buddhists later in life after realizing that Buddhism advocated values and teachings that they wished to incorporate into their lives, including their other religious identities.

Many people are attracted to Buddhism because its teachings fit well with the practice of

other religions.

Carver is a Unitarian as well as a Buddhist, while Chen's background was primarily Catholic before she discovered Buddhism.

"The great thing about Buddhism is that rather than replacing anyone's previous religious identity, Buddhism helps you to really appreciate the values and teachings that every religion offers," Chen said.

She emphasized that Buddhism encourages people to constantly challenge their beliefs, and never stop asking questions about the nature of faith and belief.

In their weekly meetings, the members of the JHU Buddhist Society do exactly this.

They discuss current politics and what sort of answers Buddhism can offer for ethical and moral questions regarding the war in Iraq, or state sponsored torture.

They discuss what constitutes right speech if by speaking truth, one person is helped but another harmed. They talk about books they've read that deal with Buddhism, such as Rodger Kamenetz's "The Jew in the Lotus."

Kamenetz recently spoke at Hopkins, at an event co-sponsored by the JHU Buddhist Society and the Jewish Students Association.

Members of the group talk often about how they reconcile the realities of stressful student life with the teachings of Buddhism.

Many members of the Society, Chen included, admit that the weekly conversation and questioning help answering their questions better than meditation, which can leave some people frustrated at their inability to achieve inner quiet.

"For some of our members, conversation can be more anchoring for the mind than meditation. Meditation tends to help those who are a little further on in life, those who are able to slow down and take the time to begin the long process of clearing the mind," Scott said.

Carver also noted the benefits of examining the teachings of Buddhism as a group.

"One of the best parts of these weekly conversations is the challenge we present to one another of putting what we talk about into daily life and daily practice," he said.

I remind myself that it's okay to make mistakes — that the important thing is to fully engage in the present moment.

— SENIOR VICTORIA CHEN



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Post-doctoral student Sean Carver, a Buddhist, practices the art of meditation.

ERRATA

In the Oct. 25 edition of the *News-Letter*, the brief "Emory appoints Dalai Lama to a faculty position" on page A4 was credited to the wrong writer. The brief was written by Hannah Diamond.

In the same edition, the article "Lab safety: National issue not JHU's concern" on A3 should have reported that the chemical used to image DNA on gels is called ethidium bromide, and not athenium bromide.

In the Oct. 18 edition, the cross-country photo on page B10 attributed to Shiv Gandhi should have been credited to Jaqueline Claus.

The *News-Letter* regrets these errors.

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Pick your piercings: The good, the bad and the festering

Several years ago, a friend asked me to pierce her ears. I complied but suggested she buy gold studs in case she was allergic to nickel.

Allison decided instead to use the nickel studs, telling me she had worn nickel alloys in jewelry for years. I pierced her ears with a sterile safety pin and a leather belt backing, and in went the two dollar studs.

As it turns out, Allison was allergic to nickel — she lied to me so she wouldn't have to pay for more expensive earrings. A week later her piercings festered, and her earlobes turned a red-orange color.

My friends and I begged her to remove the earrings, but she said the infection would pass with the help of some hydrogen peroxide. The next day her ears had completely encapsulated the earrings and her tongue had turned black.

Her earlobes resembled puss-oozing marbles, and she was taken to the hospital to have the earrings surgically cut out of her engorged lobes.

The plating on Allison's earrings had worn off the metal and entered her bloodstream. This manifested itself in a black coloring of the blood vessels in her tongue.

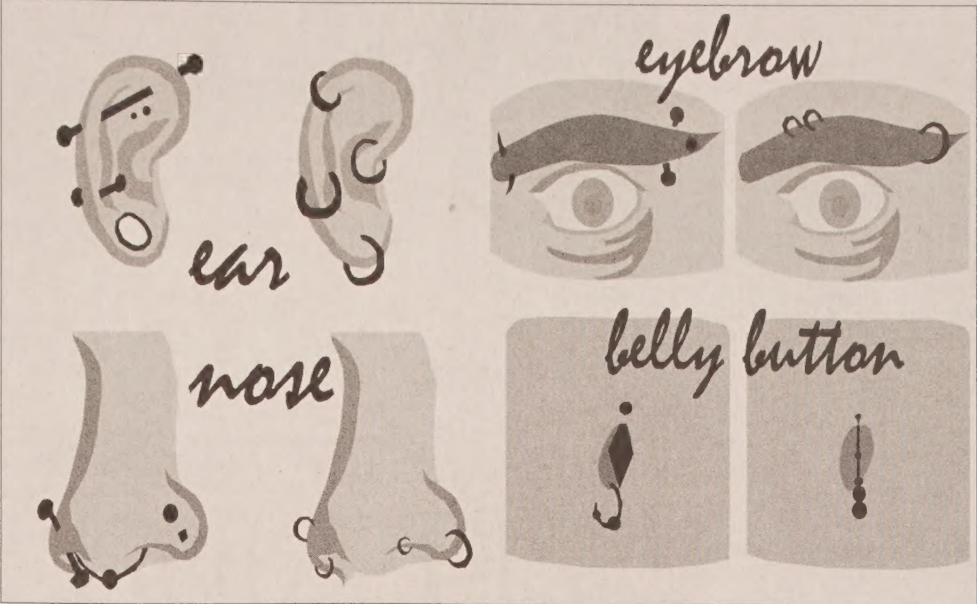
As Allison's story shows, it is important that before you get a piercing you make sure you are not allergic to your earring. For your first piercing, it is usually best to use gold. A nickel allergy can cause irritation, swelling, redness and pain.

If your piercings are extremely irritating and you show any of these symptoms in an extreme fashion, you should see a physician or piercing specialist. You could be allergic to the metal or have gotten sepsis, an infection of the blood.

This is not to say that all piercings go wrong. Some people have a higher tendency than others to develop scar tissue.

You may notice thick bumps of scar tissue, or keloids, have grown around your piercings.

This is normal, as is non-serious infection right after the piercing. You have just stuck a piece of metal in your skin. This is a wound, and your body is



MATT HANSEN/GRAPHICS EDITOR

fighting it.

Although it is easy to pierce the skin with a safety pin, ice cubes and a lighter, it is much safer to get it done professionally. It will undoubtedly be cleaner, faster and much more accurate.

With do-it-yourself piercings, things can go wrong; the needle can slip. Make sure to clean your piercings regularly, and follow whatever guidelines you are given by the professional.

Piercings can go anywhere on the body where the skin can be pierced. Choose carefully when you plan to get pierced.

There's a variety of places that you can pierce, but not all of them are the best options. Be careful if you're getting pierced, even if you think you know what you're doing.

Here are some guidelines on what you can expect of the most popular piercings.

The ear: This is the easiest piercing to get, because the person piercing your ear will most likely use a gun.

You choose the stud, the piercer marks the spot and bang! You've got pierced ears, and you

probably didn't feel a thing.

The ear takes between six and 12 weeks to heal.

The nose: This is a nice, blatant place to stick a shiny object, especially if you want to look artsy or have an extra hole through which you can blow things.

If you're going to get your nose pierced, be careful when you wash your face at night or blow your nose.

One drunken night you might pull out the stud without even noticing and have to sift through the trash to find the ring again.

Piercings on your face take between six to eight weeks to heal.

The bellybutton: Be particular about the clothes you wear if you plan on getting a piercing in your navel. Try to avoid clothes that will chafe the piercing or keep it moist; these will prevent normal healing and could cause infection.

A piercing here could take up to a year to heal, depending on how well you treat it.

The eyebrow: Getting a quality eyebrow piercing can be tricky. It can ei-

ther look very cool, or it can look like your upper face is rotting off. Be careful.

Many piercers will suggest you start with a hoop, but in my experience it is better to have a barbell. There is always the possibility that you will roll over in your sleep or catch the hoop with your clothes while changing. This could make the hoop to lie flat on your face, which would cause the piercing itself to start migrating.

The tongue: Think twice before you get a tongue piercing. As anyone who has seen *Rat Race* can tell you, a tongue piercing can go seriously wrong. A barbell piercing can chip your teeth, impede speech and make it difficult to masticate.

Take special care of these piercings. Any piercings that are inside the mouth take between three and six weeks to heal, and they have a much higher rate of infection.

There are a lot more bacteria in your mouth just waiting to get into your blood, and if your tongue becomes infected, it could swell to almost the size of an egg.

Lisa Ely is a biophysics major who at one point had seven piercings. She is a junior from Rockville, Md.

Lisa Ely To Health With It

Baltimore's famous red-light district excels in the forbidden despite decline

Known by locals as The Block, this stretch in East Baltimore caters to tourists and locals with renowned exotic dancers and scrumptious sites of sin

If you read this paper enough you'll notice that all the writers love to open their articles by denouncing the student body in some small way.

No rebel am I; in accordance with longstanding *News-Letter* tradition, I will present to you one further small reason why we all continue to suck.

When people talk about exploring the forbidden underground on this campus, they are usually speaking, according to our trademark, collegiate-solipsistic frame of reference, of ducking into a steam tunnel, i.e., under Homewood.

But if you take a look outside our soap-bubble campus, dear reader, you will soon see that there is a charmingly dirty underground world out there, cavernous and waiting to be discovered.

Baltimore is thick with scrumptious sin. And in this "city of neighborhoods," there is no neighborhood that speaks best to this aspect of Baltimore than its famous red-light district. The locals call it, simply enough, The Block.

The Block is a stretch of East Baltimore Street, near the waterfront, about halfway between Hopkins Med and the Bayview Center.

Dead by day, at night the area springs to life, casting a tantalizing beacon of neon. Some 11 million patrons a year swing by for a drink, a peep show or maybe something more.

While most visitors are tourists, The Block caters also caters to football fans streaming weekly out of M&T Bank Stadium and probably to a few people just

across the street at City Hall.

Unlike many red-light districts, The Block is not separated from the heart of the city by railroad tracks, nor is it part of a larger shady side of town.

Although The Block is certainly shady itself — about 1,000 erotic dancers work there nightly at several strip joints — this den of iniquity is nestled among high-rise apartments, and the surrounding area is pretty gentrified. I mean, look no further for proof than the local Barnes & Noble.

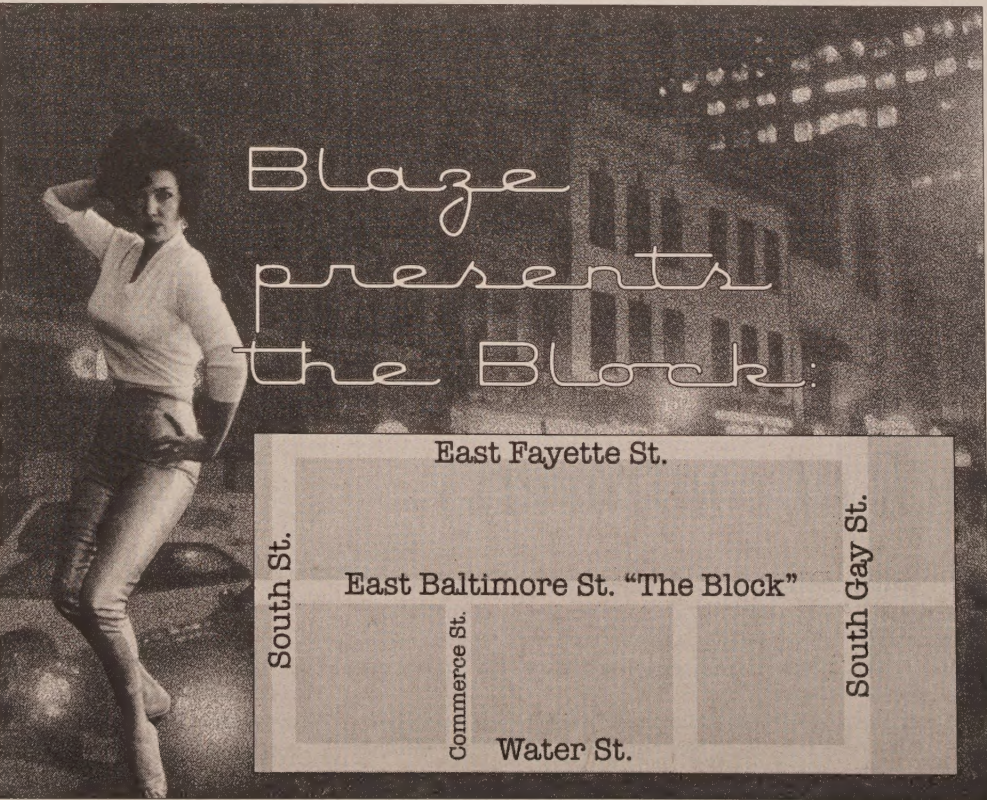
The Block started taking shape about 80 years ago. It made its name in the '50s, when it earned its reputation as the go-to place for the needs of upstanding gentlemen: tits, ass and back room blowjobs. The Block has never flagged in its task to uphold this tradition.

The Block is known for its high-profile erotic dancers, including the infamous Blaze Starr, former paramour of Louisiana governor Earl Long, and subject of the 1984 Paul Newman film *Blaze*. Starr was well-known for being well-endowed — at her peak, she was 38DD-24-37.

She also garnered acclaim for her innovative stage effects. She used smoke and wind machines, and a lot of red fabric, to make a couch appear to explode on stage while she undressed on it. She even involved a trained panther in her act — it undressed her.

You can catch Starr in a perfectly titled '60s porn flick, *Blaze Starr Goes Back to Nature*, which is a sort of like *Into the Wild*, but with boobies.

Visit the block and today and you may run into Starr, who's



MATT HANSEN/GRAPHICS EDITOR

now in her mid-70s. She owns the joint where she used to work, the Two O'Clock Club.

Further down the street you'll hit the Villanova Show Bar, home to the towering Kitty, who rivals Michael Jordan in height.

If you're lucky, you might be able to catch a glimpse of Ronnie Bell and her Twin Liberty Bells.

But despite the decades of staying power of The Block in the cultural imagination of Baltimore, the borders of the neighborhood have been steadily retreating like the coastline of the Aral Sea.

The district was once a thoroughfare that extended all the way to Charles Street. It is now still holding its own, but on considerably tinier turf.

The Block's current status is actively debated. It is surrounded by prime real estate. If it were bought up by some major development company, it would be doubtlessly turned into condos and Starbucks chains in a minute.

But some city politicians prefer having a place like The Block around. They reason that if the crime is concentrated in one area, rather than dispersed throughout the city, then it is more easily kept in check.

In keeping with this view, the frequent patrolling of The Block makes it one of the city's safer places to walk at night.

Most recently, however, Baltimore police have been enforcing laws more aggressively, threat-

Café provides creative cuisine at decent price

What exactly typifies the university experience? One may say that campus life defines a person's time at college, whereas another may argue that academics play the predominant role during a student's four years.

Everyone has their own equation of work and play. But in the end, whether you are a social butterfly or a driven scholar, it's hard to deny that your actions are often directed by a present awareness to conserve money. This is most commonly done in an attempt to compensate for the exorbitant costs of your education.

This is understandable; it is difficult to argue that being a college student is not expensive. Books, tuition, rent, even dropping the daily \$2 for your indispensable jolt of caffeine adds up to some seriously large numbers over time.

It is not surprising that the budget-conscious mind set of many undergraduates tends to shun thoughts of "excess" and "luxury" with hope of saving their wallets, or in some cases, their parents' sanity.

Whatever the motive may be, even if it is in the name of practicality, suppressing a desire for premium products and first-class experiences is unnecessary and avoidable if you are resourceful.

With just a little research, you can discover a world of culinary indulgence at discounted prices.

Be active and you won't have to wait until Parents' Weekend to enjoy the delightful pleasures of fine dining.

One example of the type of eatery you should be willing to splurge on is the Chameleon Café.

This restaurant is the poster child for creative and sophisticated cuisine at remarkably reasonable prices.

This Northeast Baltimore institution is located on an unassuming street in the midst of Lauraville, just down 33rd Street and past the reservoir.

The restaurant has earned rave reviews from the press, including the *Baltimore Sun*, *City Paper*, *Style Baltimore* and *Baltimore* magazine.

The Zagat Survey gave the quaint eatery a 26 food rating, one of the top five highest scores in the city.

Despite these numerous accolades, the café is still under the radar to most of the public. Why is this?

Perhaps Chameleon Café's name is all too fitting. The restaurant's modest exterior blends so naturally with its low-key neighborhood surroundings that this gastronomic dreamland is relatively hidden.

This makes it an oasis found only by knowledgeable foodies and enjoyed by informed insiders.

Husband-and-wife team Jeffrey Smith and Brenda Wolf Smith's French-inspired cuisine is as delicious as it is innovative.

With the weather getting cooler and corn being in season, the corn chowder (\$5.75) is a perfect start to your meal.

This basic soup is kicked up a notch with top-shelf ingredients such as George's silverqueen corn and Krakus kabanosy sausage blended with onions simmered in corn stock.

If you prefer greens before delving into a very hearty dinner, try the tomato aspic, a refreshing combination of chilled Maryland steamed shrimp with lump crabmeat served with cucumber salad, tomato aspic, smoked bluefish and deviled egg (\$9.95).

Everyone is sure to find an entrée that is suitable for his or her taste with the café's few but deliciously diverse options.

Whether your dinner companions are avid fish eaters, devoted vegetarians or meat enthusiasts, they will be undoubtedly satisfied and impressed by chef Steve Francis's exceptionally original creations.

Don't miss the baked bluefish with lemon mayonnaise and shrimp mousse served with sautéed zucchini and a perfectly crisp corn fritter (\$21.95), or the grilled duck breast served with Solferino sauce complemented by a smoked pork succotash (\$21.95).

With such delicious food, you won't feel guilty succumbing to the temptation to taste the fine life.

These aren't the only standouts on the menu, with entrées averaging around \$20. Weekly specials include some serious discounts and special offers, such as 20 to 50 percent off of wine on Wednesdays.

You'll also be served by some of the most pleasant waitstaff in town.

Next time, before you consider dropping \$30 on a round of sushi at Niwana, take the opportunity to explore both the city's familiar and unknown neighborhoods while enjoying Charm City's dining elite.

If you start exploring city cuisine, I assure you that after graduation, you won't leave Hopkins with a bad taste in your mouth.

Well, you might have just a slight bitterness that you didn't uncover Baltimore's gourmet delights sooner.

Carleigh Connelly is a senior from Chicago, Ill. She is double-majoring in International Studies and Film and Media Studies.

CHAMELEON
CAFÉ

Location: 4341 Harford Rd.
Phone: (410) 254-2376
Prices: Moderate
Hours: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday; 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Friday - Saturday
Transportation: 10-minute drive from Hopkins (about a \$12 cab ride)

Junior Raffi Krut-Landau majors in Cognitive Science and Philosophy. He can be reached at raffi@jhunews-letter.com

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

A fair price

The rising cost of higher education has nearly become a national crisis. The average college tuition for both public and private schools has been rising at a rate higher than inflation for years now, and will likely continue its inexorable rise in years to come. Middle-class families are being priced out of a college education, and both parents and their children are taking on more private debt than ever before.

University officials have offered a variety of tortuous justifications for this rise, which has been especially steep at Hopkins, none of which we find intellectually defensible. Some explanations are outright offensive.

The standard reply, issued this time by James McGill, senior vice president for finance and administration, is that colleges and universities use a price index other than the one consumers deal with on a daily basis. This is why higher education gets more expensive more quickly than other goods and services, he said, implying that the difference is simply unavoidable.

But we don't accept the premise that this ambiguous price differential is somehow unavoidable, nor do we accept the argument that, just because the University uses a price index that only colleges use, the rise in tuition costs for ordinary American families is justifiable.

Parents who take on exorbitant amounts of private debt to send their children to college don't balance their checkbooks using the Higher Education Price Index, and for University officials to suggest that this index somehow makes rising tuition costs acceptable is disingenuous and offensive.

Even more offensive, however, is the suggestion

that the University's high tuition somehow makes it more prestigious and, in turn, more attractive to potential applicants.

Jerome Schnydmann, secretary of the Board of Trustees and executive assistant to President Brody, made that very assertion in an interview with the *News-Letter* this week.

"If the best schools, like the Ivy leagues, charge the most, while the not-so-good schools charge less, then some people begin to associate high quality with high price," he said. "People are willing to spend more to go to better schools. I don't think people are pushed away in the end by finances. Hopefully our financial aid will be there for those people."

He went on to say that he doesn't think the rising cost of a Hopkins education has a negative impact on the school, adding, "so far, we haven't priced ourselves out."

It is clear that Schnydmann and his fellow administrators are simply out of touch with average middle-class families, many of whom make less in one year than the annual cost of a Hopkins education. In most cases, these families are forced to take on burdensome private debts in order to send their multiple children to college, even with financial aid.

We find Schnydmann's remarks not only indefensible but insulting to those families who struggle everyday with the burden of supporting their children's college educations. We urge him to offer an apology, and perhaps sit down with any number of families who have taken on thousands of dollars of private debt to send their children to Hopkins (we know of several).

Opening our books

Supporting a sustainable community requires more than just words. The University has taken several commendable steps toward making Hopkins a national leader in sustainable development, but it has left one crucial piece out of the puzzle: Transparency.

That's what the Sustainable Endowments Institute said in its College Sustainability Report Card in 2008, and we agree. The Institute, which evaluates colleges' sustainability profiles based on a number of factors, gave Hopkins a B-, which is a low composite score considering how well it performed in most of the individual categories.

So what's holding Hopkins back? Transparency. The University refuses to make little more than the basic facts about its endowment available for public inspection, despite repeated requests from the *News-Letter* and the Sustainable Endowments Institute, which gave Hopkins an F in two categories related to endowment transparency.

We find this disturbing, because it makes it impossible to judge whether or not Hopkins is allocating its money toward appropriately sustainable initiatives and investing in corporations with acceptable ethical track records.

A number of our peer institutions, both private and public, have decided to make information about their investment profiles accessible to the academic community, and have even gone so far as to convene committees of faculty members and students to evaluate whether or not their university is investing its money responsibly. We urge Hopkins to do the same.

Administration officials have asked us to support them in their efforts to combat anthropogenic climate change, but it's hard to take that request seriously when the University itself won't even make its investment profile accessible to public review. If we can't know whether or not the University is spending its time and money in a way that supports sustainable development, why should we waste ours?

Unfortunately, the fact that the University is unwilling to open its endowment profile to the Hopkins community leads us to believe, as any sensible person would, that it's for self-serving reasons. As an educational institution that claims to support free and intelligent discourse on the most compelling ethical challenges of our time, the University must make itself open to academic review and evaluation.

We are calling on the University to make its endowment profile accessible to public inspection immediately, and to convene a committee of faculty members and student leaders to review the University's investments. The most effective way to make the Hopkins community a sustainable one would be to encourage free and open discourse on what such a lofty vision requires of us, and whether or not we're living up to those standards.

Hopkins is not the Bush administration, nor is it a multinational corporation — and yet it is apparently just as secretive. That is, unfortunately, a sad statement on our University's ethical conscience, and an even stronger indictment of its purported academic leadership.

Looking back at controversy

One year has passed since the Sigma Chi controversy and Hopkins and we would like to take this opportunity to point out that little substantive dialogue on multiculturalism and race has occurred on campus. Instead organizations across campus have failed to address the issues that were brought to the forefront a year ago.

There is ample blame to go around. The sense of urgency in addressing these serious issues has all but vanished, rendering the initial uproar even more superficial. Hearings were held, people were punished, readings were assigned, and the Student Council's bills were passed, but has real change occurred at Hopkins? Do students feel the effects of the "Halloween in the Hood" debate in their everyday lives? Do the same root problems still persist?

The University has been rather inactive in confronting ignorance and prejudice at Hopkins. The *News-Letter* is not imploring the University to give lessons and offer readings to teach students how to accept diversity. As good as it may sound on paper, such proposals are ineffective and often counterproductive.

Rather, we urge the University to take serious action to not simply increase diversity on campus (in fact, a greater number of black students are enrolled in the freshmen class than in the past several years), but to change the culture of Hopkins. The problem is that there is not one Hopkins community. Rather there are a number of dispa-

rate and insular communities centered on specific minorities, interests and academic concentrations. That is not a healthy environment for any institution, especially one that thrives on a healthy discourse.

The University should work to bring people together, using peer organizations. Progress can only be made through open and participatory dialogue.

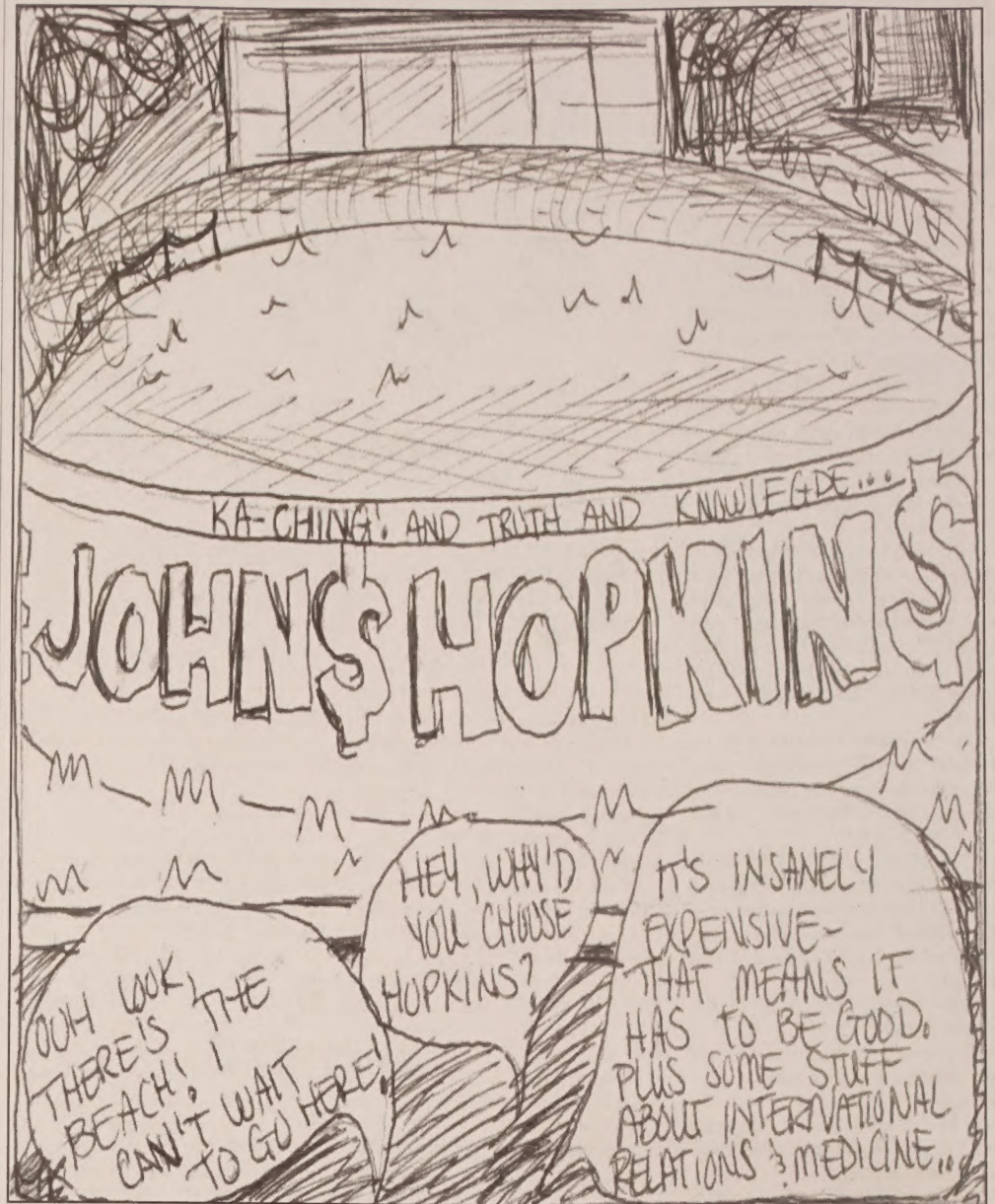
The Council has not been facilitating open dialogue to the degree that it should. StuCo itself is a very insular organization, and that is truly a shame. It has no connection with its constituency, which happens to be the entire student body. This lack of connection reduces the organization's potency as a positive force in students' lives.

The *News-Letter* is disappointed with the BSU as well. While their primary function should be to provide a community for black students to come together, the BSU has made such activism a central part of their identity. Following the Sigma Chi incident, the BSU correctly asserted that there exists a moral imperative for substantive change.

That was when there were microphones and TV cameras. While the BSU is still calling for open discussion and dialogue, they have not been a visible presence on campus.

The Council and the BSU should come together and work with the University to facilitate discussion and help create one community for all Hopkins students.

Natachi Chukumerje



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *News-Letter* did not receive any letters to the editor this week.

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins *News-Letter* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and cannot be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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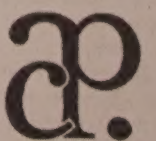
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Mailing Address:
Levering Suite 102
The Johns Hopkins University
3400 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Main Phone Number: (410) 516-6000
Business/Advertising: (410) 516-4228
Fax Number: (410) 516-6565
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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Diary of a mad black Hopkins student

By BRENTON PENNICOOKE

For the past three-plus years at this institution I've remained silent. I've dealt with racial tension that I've never before experienced. I experienced the stigma that accompanies being a minority student at a top-tier school and watched as my fellow Hopkins student said and did things that were not only offensive to me but were also a negative reflection on this University.

As undergraduates we come here for education, to be honed as the future great minds of this country. But this school forces many minority students to educate their peers, forces them to fight a battle that they should not have to fight — especially not in 2007.

With the student council passing a bill that supposedly aims to establish clearer policies to protect "all ideas, regardless of whether one agrees with them or not," I've learned that many students at Hopkins just don't get it. I'm not going to debate how strictly or loosely the First Amendment should be interpreted, but I will try to partially convey the black student's experience for all the Hopkins students who just don't see "what the big deal is."

Verbal attacks, heritage defamation, ridicule of backgrounds, stereotypes and incivility do not and will never create an academically rich environment. This is the black experience at Hopkins. Some of these acts are not intentional, but lack of intent does not make them excusable. Just like plagiarism, saying, "I didn't know," won't dismiss one's actions or their repercussions.

My Hopkins experience has been full of cultural insensitivity, ignorance and even blatant racism. I remember one

Brenton Pennicooke is a senior molecular and cellular biology major from New Rochelle, N.Y. and president of the Black Student Union.

time during my sophomore year waking up one morning, walking to the McCoy elevators and seeing "N--r" written in permanent marker.

That might be hard for many of you to believe. It was hard for me to believe. In fact I didn't even want to make a big ruckus out of the situation, so I just told the security guard downstairs to get a custodian to clean it off. That probably wasn't the most socially responsible action, but at the time I felt helpless. If I did bring it to the administration, what could they do? Would they even take it seriously? Would the campus see me as a rabble rouser?

I also remember one of my non-black acquaintances saying to me, "Brenton, I feel like you are going to rob me every time you and your seven black friends walk into Wolman [cafeteria]." Part of me thought maybe he was joking, but he didn't say it with a chuckle. And let's say he was joking: It is still an ignorant statement that is neither humorous nor excusable. What makes him think it's acceptable to say such a comment? Such a defamatory comment is hardly conducive to building an inclusive environment.

During my junior year, I recall being told, "Brenton, you're not really black; everybody knows that real black people don't go to Hopkins ... Morgan State and Coppin maybe, but Hopkirts? No." This is a ridiculously offensive statement. I remember yelling at the person, telling him that such comments were not acceptable. His reply, "C'mon man, it's just a joke. Do you honestly think I believe



LAUREN SCHWARTZMAN/GRAPHICS STAFF

that?" Actually, I don't think you believe it. I know you believe it. This pseudo, under-the-radar, equivocal racism is what characterizes many (but not all) black students' experiences at Hopkins.

So I'll pose this question. If this objectionable environment exists before a decree of free speech without ramifications, what would Hopkins be like if that StuCo bill is passed? Will it become a Mecca of open thought and debate? Or a campus of further racial tension, ignorance and exclusivity?

Regardless of what the future holds for Homewood, we are all at fault for the present. Shame on us for allowing stereotyping and ignorance to infest our campus. Shame on us for thinking it's acceptable to make any Hopkins student feel unwelcome and disrespected. Shame

on us for not *fighting* for a civil, culturally integrated campus. And shame on us for using the First Amendment to defend such inhumanity and indecency.

Before you decide to disagree and snub my opinion, understand what you're rejecting. You are rejecting an environment where students, regardless of their ethnicity, socioeconomic status or religion, can study freely without feeling uncomfortable. You're rejecting the true preface of the First Amendment — the promotion of independent thought, freedom of religion and expression of dissent towards one's government, not the promotion of ignorance and opprobrious comments. Lastly you are rejecting the idea that every student deserves a college experience that is filled with positive memories, not with recollections of intolerance.

Colin Ray Hanging it up

A quick drive through a suburban area around this time of year (or particular spots in certain cities) will provide a viewer with many wonderful Halloween sights: Cotton cobwebs, bags of leaves decorated with friendly pumpkin faces and the occasional dead body replica hanging from a tree or porch by its neck.

Halloween decorations, like decorations for every other season, have gotten more and more expensive and creative, thus leading to perhaps the crème de la crème of decorations: the hanged guy.

As students of this university may remember, a similar decoration was placed on the porch of a house last year, resulting in a far greater amount of controversy than was ever needed or called for, and which ironically took a certain student and his associated student group to the gallows. These decorations, the argument goes, are racist because of the long history of lynching in this country. It stands to reason, certain folks argue, that the people responsible for putting up such decorations are racist as well.

A pastor from Connecticut was quoted in this weekend's *New York Controversy Times* as saying, "What if my great-grandfather was lynched?" With no knowledge of his ancestors' family tree, I would say chances are that this highly unlikely. Des-

perate times call for desperate measures, and media fire storms call for inflammatory statements. And if there is one thing this country loves, it's the allegation of racism regardless of the validity of such assumptions.

Am I making light of lynching? Of course not. A Tuskegee Institute study reported that about 4,500 people have been lynched, of whom about a fifth were not black. Many of them were immigrants and Catholics. However, as an Irish Catholic, I am not offended by either hanging Halloween decorations or the University of Notre Dame's mascot, which stereotypes my people. Lynchings are simply one of many deplorable chapters in our nation's history but not one that is represented by what are clearly Halloween decorations.

Once again in America we have made the ever-so-frustrating mistake of getting really pissed off at the right thing for the wrong reason. Just as snowmen are a widely-used Christmas decoration that are also ignored caricatures of white people, Halloween decorations are not intrinsically racist. I do not care to give a history of Halloween, but in America it is a secular holiday celebrated on the final day of October and generally used as an excuse to get drunk in the middle

of the workweek or dress up like a sexy employee. Only someone who is really looking to get pissed off (and they are out there) would recognize a decoration for this holiday as a racist or intimidating symbol. The pastor I mentioned before is from Stratford, Conn., which as most of us know has a long, explosive history of racial tension, more so than other regions of the country, such as the South.

In reality, the real problem with the noose is that not enough people are mad at it. The noose is not anti-black; it is anti-pirate. Though pirates were a murderous, thieving, Machiavellian raping and pillaging bunch, they are widely celebrated in today's culture. The penalty for piracy, as made famous by the recent Disney *Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy, was, of course, being hanged by the neck until dead.

Where are the pirate advocacy groups? Students of this University will remember that the noosed figure on a certain house last Halloween was not a black depiction but a pirate depiction. One could tell because the figure was dressed in what were unmistakably pirate clothes: something Johnny Depp might wear on-board a wooden ship.

For people who want to get fired up, the noose is still a good symbol to focus on. In all seriousness, the noose is a reminder of

something else that Americans are shockingly tolerant of: capital punishment.

Thousands of criminals, some likely innocent, have been put to death in the U.S., one of the few industrialized countries that still puts people to death (over 8,000 since 1900). The noose is certainly a reminder of that abominable stain on our national conscience. Furthermore the noose is also a reminder of the undeniable suicide problem we face as a country. Increased visibility of suicide prevention groups is a great step, but suicide prevention is still far from where it needs to be. Each year, about 30,000 Americans take their own lives.

The battle between people who want to decorate their homes, however, they want and people who have nothing better to do than meddle in others' business will always rage in America, this bastion of free speech and complaining. I would be the first to say that a yard decorated only with a person hanging by the neck would be in extremely poor taste. A yard with many Halloween decorations and a person hanging by the neck is my kind of place.

Colin Ray is a junior English major from Chardon, Ohio.

Has America sold its soul?

By DYLAN DIGGS

Much like humanity itself, America is a nation borne of both good and evil. America's history has shown that our tremendous material success stands on the tormented shoulders of others.

Granted, we have done many good things with our success. I am not one to blame America for all the ills in the world. However, I do recognize the filth that muddies our history, though I fail to imagine a nation with a squeaky clean past. It's hard to imagine that without driving the American Indians from New England and Virginia back across the plains and off the coast of California that we would be where we are in 2007. Where would modern American strength be without the generations of Africans seized from their homeland and forced into bondage?

Such accounts of these atrocities are nauseating and ring with a hint (at least) of genocide, but today, I take issue with the wrongs we have done in our foreign policy decisions over the past 60 years.

Our sweet, beautiful America from sea

to shining sea sings the rhetoric of democracy and freedom, but still, when looking abroad, it has this nasty tendency to support tyrannical states over their people. The argument has always been that it's for the greater good, often referring to a greater threat that must first be dealt with (Nazis, Soviets, Islamic fundamentalists), but such statements ring hollow.

It is an affront to our own revolutionary founding to support stability solely for the sake of the status quo. Washington and Jefferson had far less of a reason to revolt than the Iranians under the Shah. We should be a nation that supports the overthrow of tyranny and stands with our brothers who wish to be free.

Whether maintaining that the status quo made America's strategic position better or worse is unclear. The irony is that while the Soviet Union was a brutal empire, the United States has been brutal by proxy.

One of the worst such cases is the American support for Cambodian leader Lon Nol, who brutally repressed his people so much that the Khmer Rouge actually started seeming good to them. Between 1970 and 1975, the Nixon administration gave Nol \$1.85 billion, a waste of money considering that once we left Vietnam and Cambodia, he fell and

the region became communist. When the Khmer Rouge began slaughtering millions of Cambodians, we just looked the other way for three years and it was the Vietnamese who finally stopped them by invading the country.

In 1980 America supported South Korean President Chun Doo-Hwan and looked the other way as he massacred 2,000 protesters in Kwangju, despite U.S. soldiers being in South Korea. Is it any wonder that South Koreans have such a low opinion of us today?

There are many other examples. Nixon encouraged the White Revolution in Iran, where the Shah brutally tried to Westernize Iran. It makes sense that the Iranians would look at the United States with such anger, culminating in the Iranian Revolution, especially since the CIA, in the 1950s, was involved in the assassination of their Prime Minister Mossadig, a nationalist who could have turned Iran for the better (much more than Khomeini ever did).

Such support and cowardice are not just the fault of the American government. Since we are a democracy, this blood is on the hands of every voter and taxpayer in the country. Our money is taken from our wallets and put into the coffers of dictators.

We must entertain the possibility that, as the sole superpower, we can do more. We should never be afraid of "people." It is the "persons," ruling over people, who threaten interests and our security: the Hilters, Stalins, Khomeinis and Saddams of the world. It is our support of the Nols, Chuns and Shahs of the world that has most hurt our current interests. In most cases people just want to be left alone. Even if it hurts us in the short run, if we stood firmly by the side of "people," and not the tyrannies at war with their own populations, maybe that would prove more beneficial for us in the long run.

Another time I may write about America's opportunity for redemption, but now I take this moment to weep. I weep for the lives lost due to realpolitik. I weep for the destructions of societies, cultures, families and lives. Maybe most pertinently, as I wonder whether to defeat a worldly evil we have sold our souls to the devil, I weep for us.

I do believe that America has a propensity for good and that we can see this new century as one where there is room for redemption. We can strive to be the first power to serve not as a beacon but as a force for the freedom of all across this globe who live in bondage amid hatred and desperation.

One party, two party; red party, blue party

By KEVIN DIETER

If only George Washington could see us now. A mere 211 years ago he warned where a two-party system would lead us: "The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge ... is itself a frightful despotism."

Never in American history has this trend of alternation been more evident than in the last 20 years, during which we have already seen two Bushes and one Clinton, and may very well see another Clinton soon (Jenna Bush in 2016 anyone?).

But the story really is far more grim than that. Not since President Millard Fillmore left office in 1850 have we seen a president who identified himself as neither Democrat nor Republican. In the time since then, the political, social, environmental and economic states of the nation have fluctuated greatly. The domination of the political process by the Democratic and Republican parties, however, has remained unchallenged.

One possible explanation as to why these two parties have dominated the political scene for 150 years is that, between the two, they meet every possible governing need and fully express the beliefs of all citizens in the nation.

In reality, however, it is not and cannot be the goal of any political party to cater to every single citizen. Instead these two have put forth the policies which will attract the greatest number possible in the hopes that dissenters will be too marginalized and divided to make a difference.

In this sense, the two-party system is working perfectly. Those who choose a side are those whose beliefs strongly align with one or the other, and they come out in force to vote. The others, who feel that neither side adequately gels with their opinions, feel disenfranchised and often do not bother to go out to the polls.

The evidence can be seen by looking at the percentage of eligible citizens who vote in presidential elections. In 2004, the first presidential election after the vote in Florida was so close it had to be decided by the Supreme Court, only 60.7 percent of citizens voted. This was a significant increase over the past decade in which fewer than half of citizens voted in most elections, and it should also be pointed out that the higher voter turnout in 2004 corresponded to a significantly weaker third party than in the previous three presidential elections.

Rather than attribute this fact to the success of the two-party system, I would argue that it actually emphasizes its failures. The controversy surrounding the 2000 presidential election, along with the events of President Bush's first term, polarized American society even further than it was in the past. In fact, many blamed Ralph Nader for stealing votes that would have given the election for Al Gore. What the high voter turnout in 2004 tells us then is that voters were solely concerned with whether Bush should stay or go, and that their votes, in many cases, had little to do with the policy objectives or goals put forth by either candidate.

In the long run, this attitude would be disastrous to the political system because it does not bring new ideas to the table, does not foster healthy debate and does not bring focus to the important issues facing the nation. Instead, it makes the election into a glorified approval rating or popularity contest which in no way is the best method of serving the public.

The Democratic and Republican parties have been and will continue to be a significant deterrent to the rise of a third party. They have huge financial assets at their disposal, and together they command the support of a majority of the population. The problem is that these two parties fall far short of commanding the entirety of the nation, and it is for this reason that more than two parties are essential.

If government is truly to be for the people and, more importantly, by the people it must be by *all* the people. That means a truly representative government inclusive to the entirety of the American public.

The best way to accomplish this is to allow the most voices possible to be heard and to select from those voices that which is the most reasonable, the most practical and the most effective. Finding the best solution from two choices is almost impossible, as neither of the two will do more than they absolutely must. Only from among many possibilities will the best choice be found.

Kevin Dieter is a senior cognitive science major from Westchester, N.Y.

Dylan Diggs is a senior political science major from Mount Airy, Md. He is the Opinions editor.

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THE B SECTION

News-Letter

Arts & Entertainment • Science & Technology • Your News-Letter • Cartoons • Calendar • Sports

NOVEMBER 1, 2007



If skydiver Rod Boden has his way, everyone at Hopkins will be able to experience what it's like to fall 5,000 feet over New Jersey and land safely. Until then, Sports editor Demian Kendall does it for you. He relives his 120 mile per hour drop on page B12.

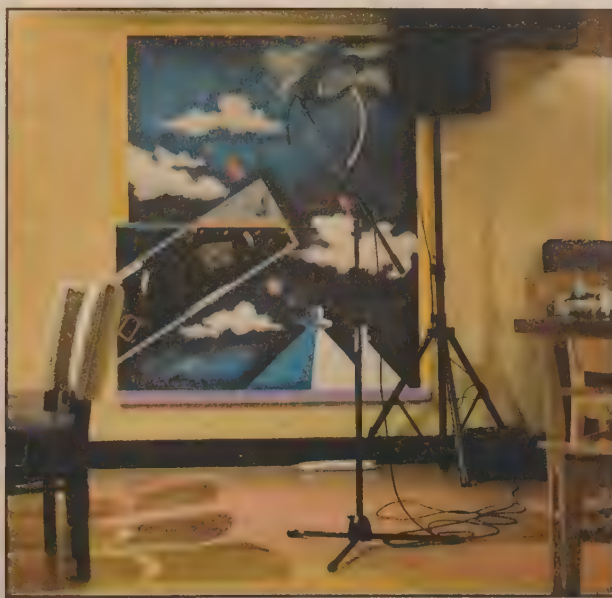
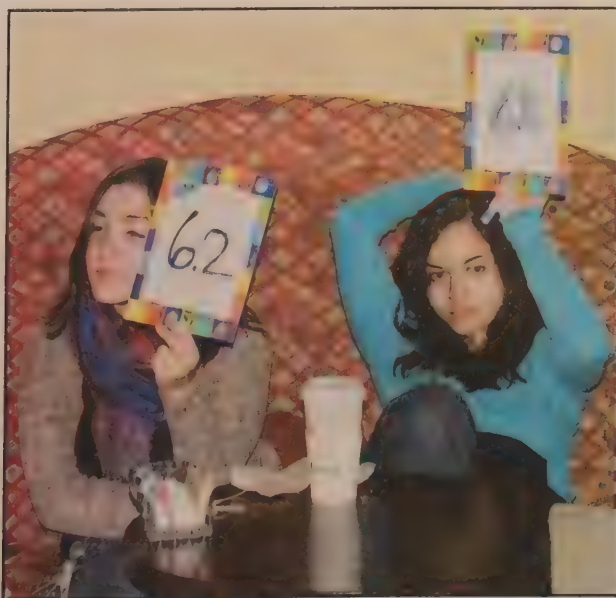
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Slam, bam, thank you, Ma'am! Xand0 hosts slam poets



Every Monday night the basement of Xand0 becomes the main stage for some of Baltimore's best wordsmiths in a collection of voices and visions known as the "Dead Poets Slam." Fusing poetry with hip-hop and interpretive dance, spoken word provides the ideal venue for the artistic ambitions of Charm City's amateur and professional poets. The *News-Letter* sits in on a slam on page B5.



ALL PHOTOS BY JOHN KERNAN/ARTS EDITOR

CALENDAR NOVEMBER 1-NOVEMBER 8

NOV
1

Stoop Storytelling takes Centerstage again

The Stoop Storytelling series has had a short yet exciting track-record crammed full of successes, sell-outs and stellar performances. The Stoop, which is a theater-based performance group centering around the idea of ordinary people with extraordinary stories to tell, was pioneered by the group's two crafters, Laura Wexler and Jessica Hankin.

After traveling to San Francisco and experiencing a similar concept called "Porchlight," Laura contacted Jessica in hopes of spawning the idea in Baltimore. Performances began at the Creative Alliance and quickly gained a devoted following. In 2006, the Stoop earned the Best of Baltimore award from *Citypaper* and *Baltimore* magazine.

This year, I have been lucky enough to sign onto the Stoop initiative as the "First-Ever Stoop Intern," in the hopes of spreading the concept to college campuses which have remained an untapped area for the Stoop.

Despite this, however, after nine straight sold-out shows, the directors decided to make a tactical move to a larger venue in hopes of allowing individuals to buy tickets at the door, as well as leaving the door wide open for those who had not yet been introduced to the Stoop concept. Now held at Centerstage (700 N. Calvert St.), which has a much higher capacity for viewers, the Stoop shows can continue to uphold their refreshing focus on audience engagement. In addition to the seven scheduled speakers of the night, who range from boxers to authors, from teachers to re-



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.STOOPSTORYTELLING.COM](http://www.stoopstorytelling.com)
The Stoop storytellers are coming to Centerstage on Monday, Nov. 5 for their second show at this prominent Baltimore venue.

tired CSI's, three audience members are picked at random to tell a personal story that coincides with the evening's theme.

Despite more than 200 added seats (amounting now to 560), however, last month's show, themed "Stories about the Body," sold out before 8 p.m., marking an exciting transition that had worried the Stoop staff. Instead of criticizing the Stoop for abandoning their less mainstream locale at the Creative Alliance, old fans and newcomers alike embraced the show all the same.

This month, the show's title, "My Theme Song: Tales About the Ditties That Define Us," will assuredly be entertaining and inspiring as usual. The storytellers include pianist and song-

writer Sandy Asirvatham, stunt-woman Dovile Mark, WYPR host Ken Jackson, Degenerettes member Rahne Alexander, activist Steve Haddad, indie rocker/filmmaker Jason Dove, and *The Wire* actress Felicia "Snoop" Pearson.

And although the Stoop is lucky enough to attract some recognizable names, it is the approachable nature of the shows that so attracts a loyal fan base, attending each bi-monthly show, excited to hear stories about "love, death, revenge, forgiveness ... Failures small and large." Clearly, the Stoop has struck a chord.

In a media-saturated world of unreachable actors and exaggerated personas, the Stoop storytellers, perched above the

crowd under a single spotlight, candidly offer to the audience what much of today's high-grossing entertainment cannot: A reminder that despite all the discrepancies of our world and all of the differences between people, we all experience stories in life worthy of telling, and we would all love a chance to share them and to be applauded for our efforts, our failings and our hopes of things to come.

This week's show, which will be on Monday, Nov. 5 at Centerstage, begins at 7 p.m. with live music from Caleb Stine and the Brakemen. Purchasing advance tickets is encouraged, and they can be purchased online at <http://www.stoopstorytelling.com>.

— Dana Covit

10:30 a.m. Distinguished Lecture: Tim Sweeney, CEO of Epic Games

The Department of Computer Science is proud to present a distinguished lecture (located in Shaffer 3) on "Programming the Next Decade of CPUs and GPUs." The speaker will be Tim Sweeney, CEO and Chief Architect at Epic Games (of Unreal Tournament 3 fame).

9 p.m. Automatic at The Ottobar; Action Painters

This monthly indie-rock-electropop dance party with DJs Matt Walter and Craig Boorman, plus live performance from Action Painters (an up-and-coming NYC-based band) will be at the Ottobar (2549 N. Howard St.) this Saturday. The Action Painters (visit <http://www.myspace.com/actionpainters>) go on at 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 3

6:30 p.m. Amnesty International presents *The Exonerated*

In collaboration with the ACLU and the Newman Catholic Community, Amnesty International will be showing the movie *The Exonerated* on Saturday, Nov. 3 at 6:30 p.m. in Mergenthaler 111. Sarah Klemm, from Maryland Citizens Against State Executions, will be speaking afterwards. The movie is based on the true stories of six exonerated death row inmates. The cast includes Danny Glover and Susan Sarandon.

Sunday, Nov. 4

5 p.m. – 7 p.m. "In Person and in Print: Viewing Ancient Sculpture in Eighteenth-Century Rome"

Jeffrey Collins, professor of 17th- and 18th-century Art and Visual Culture at the Bard Graduate Center in New York gives this lecture that will continue through Nov. 14 in the Garden Room at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

LOCAL EVENTS

Friday, Nov. 2

7 p.m. – 1:30 a.m. Northstock Music Festival

The first annual Northstock Music Festival spotlights growing North Avenue arts community with three Stages and 10 local bands at Joe Squared Pizza and Bar (133 W. North Ave.). Music also takes place at the Load of Fun Studios and Westnorth Studio. For tickets, which are \$15, visit <http://www.brownpapertickets.com>

8 p.m. Keller Williams and the WMD's

Head to Ram's Head Live! this Friday at 8 p.m. to catch singer, songwriter, guitarist and one-man-band, Keller Williams for \$25 a ticket. The WMD's feature Keith Moseley, Gibb Droll and Jeff Sipe. For more information visit <http://ramsheadlive.com>.

Saturday, Nov. 3

Various Times. GBMC Nearly New Sale

Held twice a year, the "Greater Baltimore Medical Center's Nearly New Sale" includes "gently used" clothing, household items, books, records, electronics and more. The sale ends on Saturday, Nov. 3. The dates include Thursdays from 4-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. GBMC is located at 6701 N. Charles St.

Sunday, Nov. 4

8 p.m. Porter Bastiste Stoltz

After spending years, even decades, providing some of the greatest backline support New Orleans music has heard, the brilliant sidemen George Porter, Jr., Russell Batiste, Jr. and Brian Stoltz (who make up Porter Bastiste Stoltz) are ready for their close-up, and they're coming to Baltimore's 8x10. Visit <http://www.the8x10.com> for ticketing information.

Monday, Nov. 5

7 p.m. The Stoop Storytelling Series presents *My Theme Song*

Seven Baltimore-area storytellers offer stories about the soundtracks to their lives. Come to Centerstage (700 N. Calvert St.) at 7 p.m. for cocktails and live music by Caleb Stine and the Brakemen. The storytellers will go on at 8 p.m., and tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door (The Stoop recommends in-advance tickets). Check out <http://www.stoopstorytelling.com> for ticketing information as well as a full listing of this show's storytellers and those to come.

Tuesday, Nov. 6

6:30 p.m. Brett Dennen & Colbie Caillat

Performing at Ram's Head Live! with opener Jeremy Lister, Brett Dennen and Colbie Caillat are sure to put on a show of low-key, great music. Both relative newcomers, Dennen and Caillat are riding high after successes from their debut albums and singles. For tickets, which are \$20, check out the Ram's Head Live! Web site at <http://ramsheadlive.com>.

Wednesday, Nov. 7

7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. Culture Shock

This weekly forum for poets, singers, rappers and spoken word artists is held at the Tasti Pot, located at 1417-19 E. Fayette St. For artists who wish to perform, entrance is \$3.

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter



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CAMPUS EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 1

12:10 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Changing the Big Picture — Social Programs and Policies that Shape Our Health

This week's seminar will be "It's What's for Dinner: Nutrition, Messages in the Federal Government's Commodity Advertising," with speaker Parke Wilde, associate Professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition, Science and Policy at Tufts University. To hear Wilde's lecture, head to the Bloomberg building of Public Health in room 205.

Friday, Nov. 2

7:50 p.m. – 9:50 p.m. Free Ballroom Dancing and Lessons

Head over to the ROTC on campus for waltz, rumba and tango lessons in which beginners and advanced dancers alike are welcome. Lessons are taught by David and Anne Greene on a regular schedule.



COME CHECK OUT OUR NIGHTLY SPECIALS!!

POWER HOUR 10:30-11:30 PM

Got an event?

Send details (time, location, short description) about future events to dana.covit@jhunewsletter.com by the Monday before the next issue.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Throat Culture tries and succeeds at one-acts Taxlo ups usual revelry for annual Halloween fête

By **JOHN KERNAN**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

“Student theater” is a phrase often waved off by people with upturned noses. They think of poorly written plays performed by stolid actors. Colorful banners in the Breezeway are generally ignored. This is terribly unfortunate, since student productions are actually very entertaining.

Throat Culture’s OTCoberfest is no exception. This past weekend, the production company put on three hilarious, well-acted one-act plays.

In the underbelly of Levering, Throat Culture took command of the Arellano Theater with their first attempt at one-acts. Senior, Bill Fuller, the TC president said, “Sketch is definitely our strength, and I like to think we do it very well, but we decided to do these one-acts as a way of mixing it up for the actors and writers.”

First came “The Most Dangerous Game,” based rather loosely on the short story of the same name by Richard Connell. Throat Culture’s version was written by senior Chris Chuang and directed by sophomore Gerard Taylor. Junior Nikhil Rao starred as the maniacal, eye-patch-wearing master of the island. Brought by various levels of coercion and violence to the island, the ragtag bunch of victims included a bickering couple (sophomores Richard Zheng and Emily Daly), a homeless man (sophomore Brandon Stuart), a “crazy” girl who works at the mall (Toni Del Sorbo) and a poor fellow who just wants the salad he was making when he was abducted (Chuang). The humor focused on the panicked, delirious interactions of the group while facing their imminent demise as subjects of a



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT
Actors Daly and Stuart prepare for an extramarital kiss while scorned husband, played by Richard Zheng, reacts with disbelief.

hunt.

The play was hilarious and very well received by the audience, owing in no small part to the actors’ performances. Stuart captured perfectly the somehow almost-logical but still absurd reasoning of the stereotypical homeless man. Rao channeled Myers well with his portrayed of the villain who takes himself a little too seriously. The only flaw that detracted from the play was the inability for some actors to maintain a straight face in a few of the scenes. An issue for serious actors, indeed, but we can hardly blame, for example, Daly when she could not suppress a smirk as Zheng made loudly absurd arguments two inches from her face.

Next up was “Candy Canes,” written and directed by junior Oleg Shik. Sophomore Dave

Santare and junior Bill Fuller starred as two roommates who, having nothing better to do, decide to take up cocaine. Living a sheltered life in Montana, they have no conception of the logistics of acquiring the stuff, so they decide they need “a lot” — their estimation of which is a pound. They call up their Adderall dealer, septuagenarian Candy (sophomore Anne Mumford) and request a pound of cocaine. Of course, their estimation of the price is equally off — they have between them some \$30 of cash and gift certificates. Wikipedia saves the day and panics the friends when they discover the real nature and price of cocaine.

The night ended with “Bicentennial Blues,” written by senior Joe Micali and directed by Toni Del Sorbo. Micali himself starred in the play about a “jumper” who is about to commit suicide on the eve of the 1976 American bicentennial. The jumper muses with the audience about his imminent suicide, setting himself up for a dramatic end. The set up includes a choreographed dance number to a song about killing oneself, where Micali sang and played the guitar, eventually accompanied by the entire Throat Culture cast. After the spectacle, Micali’s monologue is

interrupted by another jumper (sophomore Eric Levitz). Micali notices that the newcomer is singing Micali’s song to himself, as if it were his own. When confronted, he denies any connection. The two discuss their respective plans for ending their lives on that symbolic night, when they are again interrupted by two lovers (senior Janice Hayward and junior Pete Judge), one of whom has a proposal on his mind. Another guitar appears, and the paramour sings his proposal — to the tune of (and including some lines from) the original “Kill Myself” tune. The play more or less descends into absurdity from there, with Micali cracking silly suicide jokes — “We weren’t going to take the stairs” — and the appearance of a few more guitars.

The play ended to enthusiastic applause and hooting. The crowd dispersed with the energy that had rubbed off on them from the performers. Everyone seemed to be excited about some aspect of the plays, and was eager to share their opinions with the crew.

Student theater is a fun, cheap and enriching way to spend (or at least start) an evening. It is not a matter of coming out to support your friends, or theater in general. Come out to have a good time.

By **AIDAN RENAGHAN**
News-Letter Staff Writer

After seeing every type of costume imaginable at Taxlo on Friday, I realized there were essentially three variations on the Halloween costume: girls dressed as guys, guys dressed as girls and girls I mistakenly thought were guys dressed as girls.

For those who don’t know, Taxlo is a dance party hosted every week at Sonar. The DJs spin electronic and indie rock music, and the crowd is a total Baltimore hipster fest, which is either a horrifying night of posturing or a welcome relief from Hopkins, depending on which end of the spectrum that you fall on. This week was Halloween, so whether you wanted to be horrified by the culture or to get insanely drunk and party the night away, Taxlo was a great way to spend an evening away from the legions of costumed drunk girls trekking from frat party to frat party at Hopkins.

This is not to say that the crowd at Taxlo was not costumed or inebriated beyond belief. My friends and I arrived around midnight to catch the last few DJ sets and we quickly realized two things: We were neither drunk enough nor dressed ridiculously enough to blend in for Halloween night at Taxlo. This was an extremely pleasant surprise, as it had been pouring rain since eight in the morning and the city was basically flooded. I had expected a fairly empty Sonar, predicting that few in Baltimore would brave the ugly weather for a weekly dance party, but it was obviously not just any weekly dance party. It was a Halloween party, and people had spent too much money on their costumes to forgo a precious Halloween night.

And they dressed up in full force. Beyond the standard legions of Playboy Bunnies, sexy kittens and men in drag were a wide variety of creative costumes getting progressively destroyed as the night went on. I saw a girl in a full cop uniform handcuffing every guy she saw, a terrifying grim reaper dressed in a black cloak with blood spurting out of his mask and, my favorite

of all, a giant black girl dressed in a full Victorian dress whose giant white wig grew so cumbersome that she had taken it off and was waving it like crazy.

Taxlo always brings special guest DJs to supplement the talented regular crew, and this Halloween was no exception. The first was Muscles, a DJ and vocalist from Australia who specializes in ambient dance tracks to get the crowd jumping. The second was DJ Blaqstarr. Blaqstarr is a staple in the Baltimore club scene and was recently signed to Diplo’s label Mad Decent, releasing the *Supastarr* EP and producing a few tracks on the new M.I.A. album.

I entered the club in the middle of Muscles’s set, and it was a sight to behold. The small brown-haired Aussie was in the middle of the stage in front of a microphone and keyboard screaming “Peace, Love, Ecstasy” to a floor full of dancers singing along to songs they had obviously never heard of before. The music was reminiscent of a European techno club, giving sonic blasts of energy to get the crowd raving. Muscles seemed to be enjoying himself, feeding off the crowd’s energy to deliver pumped up and over-the-top electronica that did not disappoint.

The DJs were making swift changes that night and Muscles slipped quickly offstage and relinquished the reigns to an interim DJ while the screen was set up for Blaqstarr. Nobody noticed and the dancing continued as if a headliner was still playing. These kids weren’t about to stop for anything. It was just that kind of night.

Suddenly the familiar Baltimore club sound of screams and gunshots filled the air as the giant screen on stage turned on to illuminate the entrance of DJ Blaqstarr. He wasted no time getting into it, immediately playing club favorites “Tote It” and “Superstarr.” He even brought friend MC Rye Rye onstage in the middle of his set to deliver an insane live rendition of “Shake It to the Ground.” I am always impressed when listening to club tracks at home that people can rhyme at hypersonic speed, and to watch an MC do it outside the safety of a studio to a full floor was a sight to behold.

The Contemporary Museum traces media in Broadcast

By **LAUREN LINKS**
For The News-Letter

Today we are not outspoken. Not about broadcast television or radio, that is. Broadcast media is drifting from our youth. Instead, we bob to iPod tunes and watch films on our laptops. We’ve embraced the Internet with fingers outstretched, perhaps because we can navigate and control our interaction with it.

There was a time, however, when people were not content with submitting to ideas because they were emitted to a grand audience; a time when people felt powerless in the face of its authority. *Broadcast*, at the Contemporary Museum (100 W. Center St.) is an exhibit that explores how artists since the 1960’s have responded to the flagrant authority of broadcast, have understood the nature of media’s power and intrusion, and how broadcast served as a venue for their own art.

An exhibition of 13 pieces, with production dates ranging from 1972 to 2007, *Broadcast* presents artists of different engagements with media. Included are artists Siebren Versteeg (2003) and Nam June Paik (late ‘60’s), whose manipulation of broadcast

media undermines its authority. Versteeg’s “CC” is an installation of a TV monitor that casts a loop of newscasters. Beneath the speaker, the closed captioning — streamed from blog entries — verbalizes intensely personal experiences and feelings, some quite Freudian.

The juxtaposition undermines the speaker’s authority, reminding the onlooker of the humanity and fallibility behind the media. Paik’s piece explores how film distortion of a Lyndon B. Johnson press conference can dehumanize the actors.

Other artists, including Chris Burden (1970’s) and Doug Hall, Chip Lord and Jody Procter (1980), are artists who insert themselves into media, paradoxically using media to present their work, which then seeks to question authority and the role of media. Bromden created his own commercials, and Hall, Lord and Procter infiltrate a news show, and collaborate to create their own absurdist cast.

Also presented are seminal documentaries that are more focused on critiquing the governmental and commercial powers that exploit through media. TVTV’s “Four More Years” is a “pioneering video collective” of

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

New Pornographers celebrate new album at 9:30 Club

By **SARAH ADDISON**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Last Saturday at the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C. the New Pornographers, along with opening acts Benjy Ferree and Emma Pollack, performed a sold-out show for a crowd of about 1,200. Even if attending the concert meant foregoing all the campus parties thrown on the Saturday before Halloween, it was totally worth it.

Benjy Ferree, hailing from Prince George’s County, Md., just outside of D.C., started off the show with a country, folk and rock sound. The use of typical instruments — guitar, bass and drums — along with less traditional instruments — like the harmonica and the cello — made for an interesting combination. Unfortunately their music left the crowd anticipating the next act.

All the way from Glasgow, Scotland, Emma Pollack and her bandmates performed next and did not disappoint. Emma played the lead guitar and was the sole vocalist, while she had a drummer, bass guitarist and keyboardist behind her. Her songs were catchy with pensive lyrics that were at times reminiscent of a gentler Alanis Morissette. Her set lasted a little over 40 minutes and could be considered light rock, with ballad-esque melodious songs that are similar to Vanessa Carlton or Nelly Furtado. Yet, at the same time she had her own pleasant, distinct sound that came across when she sang, as well as when she interacted with audience. Throughout her performance, she seemed delighted to be on stage, especially when she made an endearing shout out to all her fans in Glasgow, who

might be listening at 3 a.m. their time. Proving that she is a new artist on the rise, Emma Pollack effectively pumped up the audience for the main event, the New Pornographers.

In celebration of the success of their three previous albums and their newest release, *Challengers*, the New Pornographers put on amazing show. Deriving their name from televangelist Jimmy Swaggart, who described modern music as “the new pornography,” the New Pornographers attest that maybe that is not such a bad thing.

The band’s captivating indie pop style is achieved through a group effort with the indispensable contributions of lead singer Neko Case, as well as singer Kathryn Calder, bass guitarist and keyboardist John Collins, drummer Kurt Dahle, their other keyboardist Blaine Thurier, and guitarist and keyboardist Todd Fancey.

Throughout their set, the New Pornographers played a mixture of old and new songs, which showcased their catchy, upbeat tunes and poetic yet nearly nonsensical lyrics. However, the foundation of the New Pornographers’ original style is their experimentation with combining many di-



COURTESY [HTTP://WWW.PUBLICBROADCASTING.CA](http://www.publicbroadcasting.ca)
The members of the New Pornographers assembled Saturday to a packed 9:30 club in Washington D.C.

verse sounding instruments and vocalists.

In addition to playing songs from their newest album, they included old favorites from *Electric Version* and *Mass Romantic*.

The New Pornographers played an unforgettable show, not just because their song quality and selection was so good, but also because the individual performers were so interesting to watch. Before playing “Jackie,” Dan was lost somewhere backstage, probably due to overconsumption of beer, and the rest of the band members called out to him for a couple of minutes before he rejoined them on stage. Meanwhile Kurt, who also imbibed

quite a bit of alcohol on-stage, entertained the audience by making weird faces that strangely resembled Sméagol from *Lord of the Rings*, and flipping his drumsticks up in the air in the midst of nearly every song. Kurt also helped out with vocals and with maracas shaped like an apple during Emma Pollack’s set, and in general there was a borrowing of the other band members’ talents for several songs throughout the evening.

The concert was thrilling to experience live, but if you missed out, all you have to do is check out <http://www.npr.org>, where you can listen to all three bands’ live performances.



COURTESY OF HIMMELRICH PUBLIC RELATIONS
Included in *Broadcast* was a functional 1-watt radio station installed in the gallery.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Hirsch leaves all and ventures *Into the Wild*

By LAUREN LINKS
For The News-Letter

Into the Wild covers the incredible, true story of Christopher McCandless (Emile Hirsch) as he journeys to Alaska to break from societal constraints and find himself. Along the way, Chris changes his name, meets some interesting characters and discovers the happiness in a nomadic lifestyle.

The movie begins with Chris heading for Alaska, showing the audience his letters as he went. He finally arrives and finds an abandoned bus in which he lives for the remainder of the movie.

Then the flashbacks begin. First, Chris graduates from Emory University, telling his parents that his grades are good enough to get him into Harvard Law. Even this early, it is apparent that this is a dysfunctional family, which is the main reason Chris leaves. While continuously returning to scenes in the "magic bus," as Chris called it, the movie continues to tell the tale of one stubborn but good-hearted kid trying to find himself.

This movie is certainly entertaining. It was humorous at times and serious at others. There were scenes where he climbed mountains, canoed down the Colorado River to Mexico, almost drowned in an icy stream, hunted for food and much more. Therefore, instead of constantly preaching his ideas (he tells the other characters what he believes from time to time but never preaches), he lets his actions speak.

Chris is a good protagonist — he is smart, adventurous and in no way predictable. But he isn't the only interesting character. As Chris journeys from his rebirth to his adulthood, he meets others who all truly cared for this runaway and who also tried to convince him that he shouldn't complete his journey. One of these characters,



Emile Hirsch captures the audience in his portrayal of a young man ready to give up everything in search of personal revelation.

Ron Franz (Hal Holbrook), even begs Chris to let him adopt him. The part of the story with the aging Ron Franz was touching and tied everything together.

Carine McCandless (Jena Malone), the sister of the protagonist, narrates the movie, but the story isn't about her, and that is always apparent. She is left in the dark about all of Chris' adventures, as are his parents (William Hurt and Marcia Gay

Harden), but she continues to provide insight into why Chris set out on this incredibly foolish and dangerous journey.

However, the more she narrates, the more the viewer sees that it's really Chris talking. Everything he does, every person he meets and every step of his journey is leading toward his self discovery. When he burns and donates all his money and rips

up all his identification, he is, in a sense, being reborn. Then, he goes through his childhood again with Rainey and Jan (Brian Dierker and Catherine Keener). He works on a farm for Wayne Westergberg (Vince Vaughn) and then illegally canoes to Mexico. He goes through adolescence again with Tracy (Kristen Stewart) before finally reaching Alaska.

This movie was adapted by Sean Penn from the best-selling book of the same title by Jon Krakauer. The usual questions about this movie concern Chris: Was he a crazy idealist who didn't know how to survive in the wild or an innocent young hero who just wanted to find the truth that was missing from his life? While it's easy to see that this young man made many poor choices, like never attempting to contact his family during his two-year journey, it's also apparent that he is a very intelligent individual with a lot of insight into life in general and a good heart. He touches the life of each person he meets, although he may seem cruel and unforgiving when it comes to them most

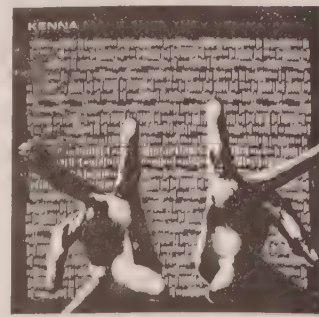
of the time. In the end, it is up to the viewer to decide whether Christopher McCandless was a hero or a fool.

Into the Wild was entertaining throughout: The acting was superb, the scenery was gorgeous, the story was intriguing and the characters were timeless. At times, the movie is dizzying — there are many scenes with Chris standing on top of a mountain as the camera circles around him. Also at times the flashbacks can be confusing, but in general they are good transitions that tell the story well. While the characters are all very vivid, some are certainly unique and a little strange, but each serves his or her purpose. Overall, regardless of whether you agree with Chris' rash decisions and philosophies on life, *Into the Wild* is still enjoyable. There are several paramount moments that make you feel small and insignificant compared with the huge Alaskan terrain, and there are other moments that make you feel complete when you realize that Chris won't stop until he reaches Alaska.

New Vibrations

Make Sure They See My Face

Kenna
InterScope Records
Oct. 16, 2007



Kenna's sophomore effort, *Make Sure They See My Face*, is another example of ahead-of-its-time dance-rock. Unfortunately in this case, "dance-rock" means it isn't quite floor-shaking enough to dominate the clubs and not mainstream enough to hear on a rock radio station.

Co-produced by one of the Neptunes, the album brings elements of hip-hop into the mix, combines them with mainstream hooks and beats, and finishes it off with enough variation to satisfy audiophiles. The result is a deep, interesting, but still catchy and commercial album.

The record starts out with "Daylight," filled with up-bending guitars and a steady, catchy beat. It is a fitting beginning to an album that manages to invoke an emotional reaction in the listener in nearly every song.

Next up, on "Out of Control," Kenna proves himself early on as able to match his voice well with the music he is making, even if his voice isn't exactly opera-quality. The hopping beat complements well Kenna's enthusiastic, impassioned vocals.

"Loose Wires" mixes Caribbean and hip-hop influence with tripping electronic scales.

While this seems odd, the juxtaposition feels completely natural within the song, resulting in a standout single — a theme on this consistently impressive album.

"Say Goodbye to Love" brings out a dance-worthy beat — especially suitable for solo living room dancing — that is the most commercially viable track yet. It is soon topped, however, by the stunningly grabbing "Sun Red Sky Blue."

This track begins with Kenna's vocals over a guitar that dances

around the emerging beat. Finally, the chorus suddenly swells into life, with a hook that will melt even the most stony hipster's heart. The emotion invoked can be compared to the first couple of times one hears U2's "Beautiful Day." "Sun Red Sky Blue" alone justifies giving this album a listen.

Not content to stop here, however, Kenna continues to sonically pleasure us.

Kenna takes it down a notch for the smoother "Baptized in Blacklight," a calming, rhythmic ebb and flow reminiscent of David Bowie. These last two '80s-pop references are no coincidence. When asked about his influences, Kenna is quick to give Bowie and U2 top honors.

We continue on without our dance beats through "Static," which introduces a soft piano to back up Kenna's vocals. While pleasing, it doesn't quite have that certain oomph, however.

After a similarly soft "Phantom Always," Kenna kicks it back up with the rocking "Face the Gun/Good Luck." Powerful, almost yelling vocals stand in front of an overdriven guitar, making for perhaps the hardest song on the album.

"Better Wise Up" inexplicably reminded me of Radiohead, smoothly transitioning into the closers "Be Still" and "Wide Awake," which channel a bit of Postal Service, with swelling synth sounds and whispering vocals, but without quite as much overproduction.

Make Sure They See My Face stands to become one of the best underappreciated albums of the year. Any self-respecting audiophile should give it a shot.

— John Kernan

Antigone sours with oddities despite talented chorus

By PATRICK KENNEDY
News-Letter Staff Writer

To see what the Baltimore Shakespeare Festival's present production of Bertolt Brecht's *Antigone* is driving at, it is almost obligatory to work through a maze of temporal displacements. The canonical status of Sophocles' fifth-century B.C. drama didn't prevent Brecht from producing an adaptation of the Greek tragedy in 1948. His version reaches the Festival's audience in a 1967 translation by Judith Malina, which returning BSF director Raine Bode has in turn fitted with costumes and scenery meant to recall the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s. Still, a play preoccupied with the spoils of conquest and the dangers of obedience can't help evoking the war currently raging in Iraq. In all likelihood, as the latest entry in the Festival's current "Season of Defiance," Brecht's state-and-society tragedy may have been intended to do precisely that.

It turns out that organizing something by Brecht is a fairly effective way to tap into the zeitgeist: A summer 2005 staging of the playwright's *Life of Galileo* at the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey, for instance, coincided nicely with the year's debates over intelligent design — which, like that script itself, pitted cultural creed against hard scientific fact. But an odd sense of timeliness can't always hide the flaws in Brecht's playwriting. Characters like his Antigone — at once transparent and eloquent — reward their spectators with knockout deliveries, though they also invite passages of glaring awkwardness. Bode seems deeply appreciative of the chosen script. Perhaps that's why this *Antigone* can't help reaching Brecht's dramatic highs along with a few embarrassing lows.

As the drama opens, the trials, horrors and losses of war remain fresh in the memory of Antigone (Christine Demuth), a Theban maiden who has lost her two

brothers, Eteocles and Polyneices. The body of the treasonous Polyneices is to be left to the vultures as a warning to potential malcontents. Though this edict is brutally enforced by King Kreon (Stephen Patrick Martin), neither his threats nor the pleadings of Antigone's sister Ismene (Tara Bradway) deter the heroine from attempting her reviled sibling's last rites.

Once Antigone falls into Kreon's power, not even her engagement to the ruler's son Hamon (Owen Scott) can stave off her martyrdom. By the time the first act is over, Demuth's strong though sympathetic protagonist has taken a backseat to Martin's vision of monstrous officialdom. And this, as indicated in dramaturg Tony Tsendeas' production notes, is the main point of difference between the ethically-ambiguous Athenian original and Brecht's re-conception. But even if Demuth's solid portrayal of Antigone, perhaps by default, earns easy moral admiration, Martin's masterfully vicious

prophet Tiresias. Since Brecht's classicizing impulses do not allow genuine onstage chemistry, these actors use largely declamatory deliveries that, here, run beautifully.

The production is loaded with scenery, staging and interpretive sequences that heighten its atmosphere of confrontation but that, artistically, range from powerful to regrettable. Scenic designer Kimberley Lynne has disguised the BSF's Elizabethan stage as a ruined building. With gaping portals and a half-dismantled car, the background generates a world marred by destruction and anticipating further upheaval. Bode's prologue is an attempt at creating a similar atmosphere — complete with pantomime, a pair of puppets and an offstage reading by actresses Zola Barnes and Ella Gensheimer (who, from the sound of it, both seem to be children). Surreal spectacles like this might have worked in the Festival's outdoor showing of *Macbeth* this summer. Still, while that production shifted rapidly from oddity to oddity, this fall's *Antigone* dwells on strange touches until they sour.

However, there are moments when the Festival's cast tempts one to disregard such bizarre maneuvers. The chorus' late addresses are absolutely astounding. Such a sequence is the apotheosis of the theatricality that informs Brecht's script and filters into the bulk of the production — a transformation of bombast and extensive narrative into something tangible, moving and nearly terrifying.

Ultimately, Bode's actors play Brecht's characters with all the ideological obviousness and monomania that they warrant. This doesn't nullify the show's more aggravating strategies. Yet it is a way of revealing the structural control and savage flourishes that, in the absence of Sophocles' dialectical complexities, are the main assets of Brecht's latter-day *Antigone*.

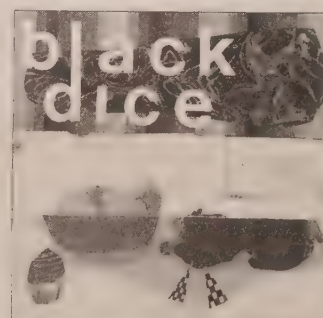
Antigone will play at the Baltimore Shakespeare Festival through Nov. 11. Visit www.baltimoreshakespeare.org for more information.

Load Blown

Black Dice

Paw Tracks

Oct. 23, 2007



First, a warning: If you think you're pushing the indie/experimental envelope when you listen to Bloc Party or Postal Service, Black Dice is not for you. While not technically a "noise" band, Black Dice strays far enough from the commercial road that many listeners used to the musical stylings of Sir Justin Timberlake will perhaps think their iPods are malfunctioning, playing this new track backwards or repeating the first two or three seconds indefinitely.

Whatever you choose to call it — noise, industrialism, intelligent dance music — *Load Blown*'s music feels like something you might hear on a late-night college radio station, something to chill to at 2 a.m., or something to get your toes tapping a bit while simultaneously doing a bit of mind-blowing.

Load Blown is actually more a collection of some previously-released singles and an EP than a cohesive album of its own. However, the tracks do manage to stick together despite their temporal differences.

For example, the opener, "Kokomo," is dominated by a repetitive, driven lick that alternates between deep bass and bobbing synth effect.

"Roll Up" exhibits an interesting aural idea — a syncopated tapper that is obstructed by plenty of static. Unfortunately it ends up being mostly just that: noise.

The tribal, woody-sounding beat on "Gore" is cool enough as it is — but then the song is augmented by a synth melody that really brings the track out on the album.

"Bottom Feeder" starts out with a painfully cacophonous grinding of metal, which turns into an interesting undulating phrase, but too late to save itself from the scathing intro.

"Scavenger" takes some of the industrial static of previous tracks and attempts to weave it into something resembling a musical beat, to some varying success. Unfortunately the grinding is still a bit overplayed and tends to be distracting.

A few good musical ideas come together to form a surprisingly listenable "Drool," with a dabble-inspired percussion that is fronted by a synth flute, together making for a cool, space-out trance track.

The fun ethnic percussion continues on "Toka Toka," the title appropriately reflecting a Polynesian feel.

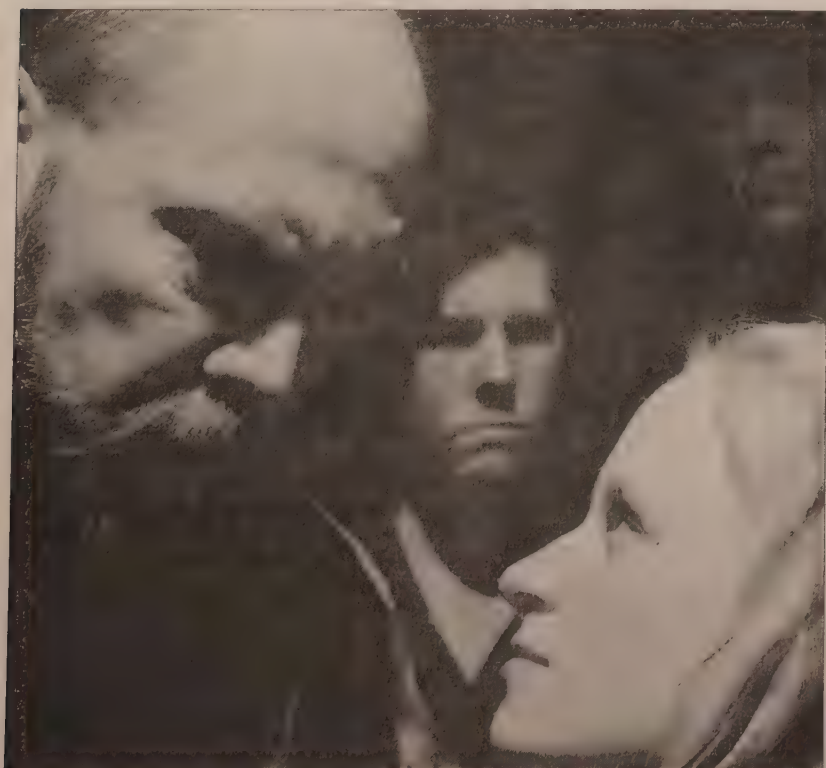
While I was hoping for some "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" influences on "Cowboy Soundcheck," instead we have a supremely spacey, slow track that doesn't go in any real direction.

The final two tracks, "Bananas" and "Manoman," remind me of what my subconscious might come up with for a bad and a good trip on acid, respectively.

"Bananas" had odd synth effects and some reversed, layered voices without any real, cohesive beat, making for a nightmarish track, while "Manoman" managed to use the same odd-sounding vocal effects but added a psychedelic beat and interesting melodic back sounds.

For the adventurous, *Load Blown* could be an interesting introduction to industrial or "noise" music. For those who like music to have consistent form and be free of grinding, shrieking metal sounds, the album might be something to avoid.

— John Kernan



COURTESY OF BALTIMORE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Martin (Kreon), Demuth (Antigone), Plants (Chorus Leader) and Benoit (Messenger Chorus) in *Antigone*.

XandO hosts night of spoken word slamming

By **CLAIRE CRAVERO**
For The News-Letter

Easily swinging the microphone stand with him, Chris August smoothly dropped his voice an octave and crooned into the microphone. His love affair with slam poetry began here, in the basement of XandO. His passion is still potent five years later as he hosted the “Dead Poets Slam” Monday night in front of a 20-person crowd. For Chris, “hosting” the slam is much more than an MC gig. His role is to draw people in, to “give context” for the poetry that night and to give a framework for people to stand up and slam in.

“You fit into me/like a hook in an eye/a fish hook/an open eye,” Nicole’s grin completed the 16-word poem by Margaret Atwood. Chris strutted back to the stage with commanding energy, snatched the microphone, pleaded for more applause and announced the next poet. The open mic component of the night was an eclectic mix, from Sylvia Plath to free-form original poetry. Alex concluded the open mic with one of his own poems. He leaned in for the final lines, his volume slightly higher. The last words echoed in the basement of XandO, “...plagued by the question: to watch Fox News and laugh, or to listen to Bill Maher and cry,” Snaps, claps, smiles and muttered responses ended the open mic as the perpetually animated Chris announced the featured artist of the night.

A hefty man with an orange bandana pulled tightly over his bald head grabbed the microphone. This used to be Robert Ceriani who worked in a steel mill where priorities were “Football. Cars. Women. In that order.” Making blatant and direct eye contact, he quickened the pace of his words. He swayed with the pulse of his story, evolving it into a third-person narrative. He chanted the epic poem of his past. This steel worker with a poet’s soul quit his job to become Rob C. Poet.

Rob C has been living out of

his car for two months. Poetry on the Gulf of Mexico as the sun rises, and long nights spent on cold park benches: This is his version of being on tour. Rob beamed with pride as he described the confused police that found him sleeping in the park and searched his car, only to find piles of dirty clothes next to thick pamphlets and recordings of his poetry.

Once Rob C starts, he almost never comes up for air. His poems undulate from vast imagery and heavy metaphors to snapshot moments from “sitting jaded on jagged mountains,” to “that place in the dreams of goldfish.” Rob’s second poem reflected on dreaming, “where the only sin is when you stop laughing, and the only sadness is when I wake.” His setlist juxtaposed abstract poems against specific personal ones. At one point, he crossed his arms against his chest and, looking up at the ceiling, called out to his unborn child aborted by his first wife. Another poem is a plea to a friend returned from Iraq. Rob C described “Mickey’s” symptoms in the throes of severe post-traumatic stress. He begged his friend to understand how much he is loved, even when suffering. Rob weaved pleas from friends and family with the images of Mickey shooting holes in his Sony TV after a commercial for a military video game. This ex-steel worker-turned-nomadic poet hit every poem in his set with fever and contagious energy.

In his final poem of the night, Rob explained his passion for art: “And if you look in a sky and hear your name sung through shad-

ows/feel comfort and peace for I am with you, holding your hands through pre-scribed lands/and kissing your face in the chaos of it all. For I am poetry and we have just begun.” Chris bounded to the stage again, but there was no need to beg for applause. Even with the small crowd, the basement of XandO pulsed with praise for Rob C.

After Rob took a seat at the back of the basement, the slam competition began with Megan Kile who read a poem by Francis Ponge. Megan is a student from the North Harford area who attends these Monday night gatherings for the sheer love of slam poetry. Tonight, in honor of Halloween, she slammed her dead poet’s words in costume, complete with an elaborate Mardi Gras mask. Later in the line up of slam competitors, Dave approached the mic and slammed dressed as Edward Scissorhands. His poem was a fallen soldier’s dedication to his wife. Dave, better known as Granma, began Slamicide in 2000 when he asked the owners if they could have slam poetry in the basement



JOHN KERNAN/ARTS EDITOR
Rob C took the mic, and ignored it, as the featured performer at Monday’s poetry slam and open mic.

of XandO. Monday nights now serve as a cultivation of slam-talent and a practice arena for the Baltimore slam poetry team. This year the Baltimore team will compete in the national championship in Madison, Wisc.

After the judges awarded points, Twain Duley took home the Dead Poets Slam prize in the form of a \$20 bill for his performance of “Dark Prophecy” by Etheridge Knight. After the applause, Twain hands Rob C the 20 dollar bill in exchange for some of his books and a CD.

It took a flickering of the lights from upstairs to finally rouse the remaining loquacious crowd to leave. Janna Tanner, Chris’s co-host, laughed as she described how they have had to finish the slams outside in front of the Homewood apartments when XandO kicks them out after closing. This is what a Monday night in the basement of XandO is like for only a \$5 cover fee. Free to sit and listen or stand up and slam, everyone is invited to share in the art of Slamicide.

Broadcast provokes thought despite dirty, poor display

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
the early ‘70s that candidly presents the Nixon campaign at the Republican Convention. Another collaborative effort, “Frequency Allocations,” is a powerful, unostentatious presentation of the power of media conglomerates. The communication of its visual representation — the juxtaposition of lists, and the buildings and clouds — is capturing.

Other artists include: Dara Birnbaum (1994), Gregory Green (2007), Christian Jankowski (1999), Inigo Manlando-Ovalle (2001), Antoni Muntadas (1977), neuroTransmitter (artist collective 2005) and TVTV/Top Value Television (artist-collective 1972).

The strength of the exhibit is its variety of media. While thematically focused on media, the variety of methods of engagement is impressive. Included, as mentioned, are screened documentaries and installations of manipulated broadcasts. Additionally, however, there are a chromogenic print, a sculpture constructed of technical broadcast material — wires, nails, radio transmitter — and two interactive installations — one of a pirate radio station and another that mixes a classroom with television viewing.

While the pieces of the exhibit are wholly impressive and successful in inducing critical thought, the presentation of the works leaves something to be desired. It seems that the accessible space for the Contemporary Museum is quite limited. The exhibition begins on the upstairs floor where the space has clearly not been fashioned for a gallery. It is something of a dirty-carpeted meeting place. This has no effect on the documentary screenings, which are held in dark rooms. But of the other pieces, one of the strongest (“The Last Ten Minutes”) and the pirate radio station seem to be thrown in last minute. They lack the spatial framing

that would psychologically lend them more importance and attention. The latter half of the exhibit, however, is fashioned in a beautiful gallery space on street level.

There are also complaints against the curator’s descriptions of the artists’ pieces. While they are certainly necessary as markers, the ones for this exhibit provide suggestions for how to interpret the piece. There are many readings outside of the suggested, the latter being unsophisticated and misleading.

A new feature of the museum, and one worth commenting on in light of this themed exhibition, are guided cell phone tours, which can be accessed in the museum or at home. While a few of the commentaries do provide more information than the imperfect labels, such as an artist’s description of the creative process, they add, regrettably, very little to one’s understanding of the pieces. It’s more of a hassle. What seems so provocative about this inclusion is that, in itself, it is an assertion of the authority of media or oral presentation — the very thing that the artists seem to be resisting. Perhaps this was included as another piece, but it seems more of a superfluous and thoughtless buy-in to technology as the venue by which we may connect to that which is, obviously, standing right before us.

Despite the overabundant access to curatorial explanations that are less than interesting and the limited spaces of the museum, the exhibit is not one to miss. The artists are provocative thinkers who offer an array of unique guides for critiquing cultural norms of communication, the power and role of authority, and how insertion and manipulation of broadcast empowers the artists’ messages. The exhibit will be running until Nov. 18. And if you are perversely curious, the guided tour can be reached at (703) 637-6789.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Treatment-resistant bacteria appears across U.S.

Methicillin-resistant *Staph. aureus* can be acquired in community; national survey shows highest infection rates in Baltimore

By BARBARA HA
News-Letter Staff Writer

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, also known as MRSA, is an increasingly widespread public health threat, with reports surfacing over the last few weeks of outbreaks in a several communities, including schools.

MRSA is a "superbug," a mutant form of a bacterium normally found on the skin and other soft tissues. Overuse of penicillin and other antibiotics has created resistant strains of the bacterium that are difficult to treat with conventional therapies.

MRSA used to be found almost exclusively in hospitals, where frequent use of high doses of antibiotics easily breeds resistant strains. But it has recently been seen as a community-acquired infection in an alarming number of cases.

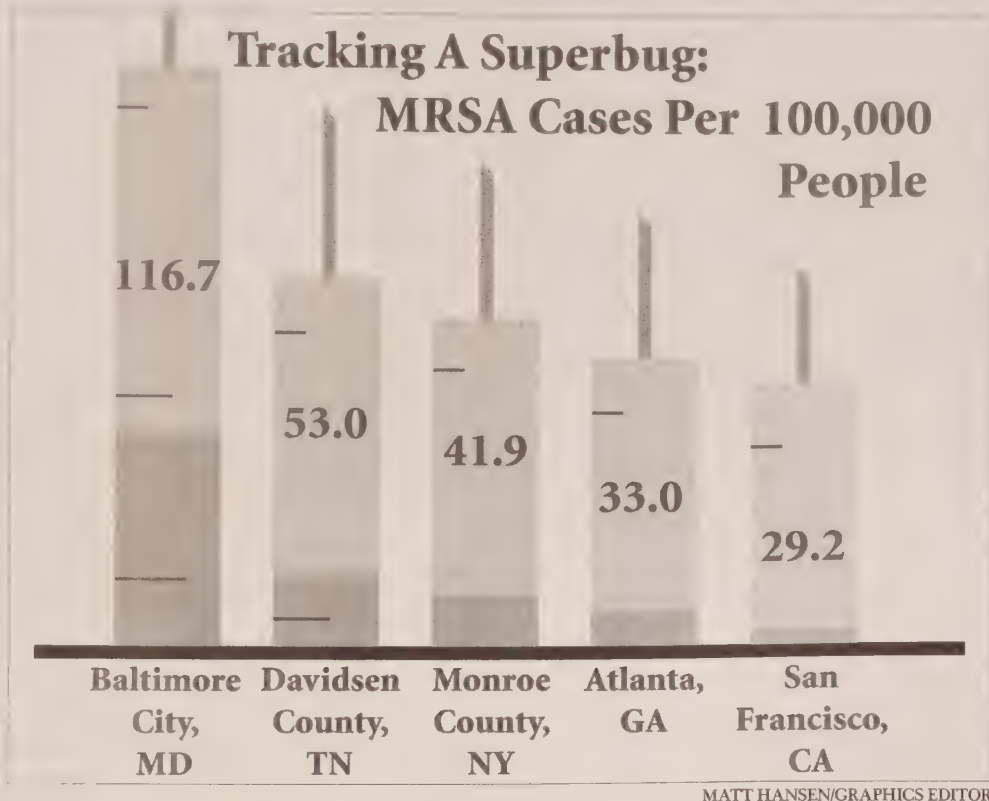
Instead of becoming infected during a lengthy stay as a hospital inpatient, more and more people are showing up in emergency rooms having acquired the infection at school, work, nursing homes and other places of social congregation.

In a recent study by a group of researchers from several institutions, including the Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, nine communities across the United States were observed and used to produce an estimate of the effects of MRSA in America as a whole. Of the nine, Baltimore City had the greatest rate of MRSA infections.

The researchers argue that accumulation of this type of data will aid the United States in preventing and controlling the spread of MRSA. The results appear in the Oct. 17 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The study was undertaken as part of the Active Bacterial Core surveillance system (ABCs), a program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ABCs conducted surveillance for MRSA infections in nine cities located in Connecticut; Atlanta, Ga.; San Francisco, Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Portland, Ore.; Monroe County, N.Y.; Baltimore City, Md.; Davidson County, Tenn.; and Ramsey County, Minn.

The total population observed



in this study was estimated to be approximately 16.5 million people, or 5.6 percent of the entire U.S. population.

Throughout these test sites, laboratories and hospitals were kept in close contact in order to record any new cases of MRSA infections. Special attention was given to confirm residency status, presence of infection, demographic characteristics and medical history of the patients.

Throughout this study, many infections arose among hospital and healthcare personnel as well. These cases were classified into two different categories: those acquired in the community in which those healthcare professionals lived, and those acquired in the hospital or healthcare facility workplace.

Overall, there were 8,987 recorded MRSA infection cases reported from July 2004 through December 2006. Specifically, there were 5,250 community-caused infections, 2,389 hospital environment-caused infections, and 1,234 community-associated infections. The remaining 114 cases were not classified.

Baltimore City had, by far, the

greatest rate of MRSA infections of any of the nine communities studied. The incidence of infections was 116.7 per 100,000 population in Baltimore, while the next highest community, Davidson County, Tenn., had a rate of 53.0 per 100,000.

Baltimore had the highest rates of all three types of infections: community-associated, community-onset and hospital-onset.

Healthcare associates were at a greater risk of infection than were community members. Blacks were more likely to become infected than caucasians, and women and men over the age of 65 were more at risk than younger individuals. The overall national mortality rate was 6.3 deaths per 100,000 in the total population.

In addition to tabulating data on the presence of MRSA infections among various communities in America, the researchers of this study were also able to deduce risk factors for MRSA among health care-associated and community-onset infections. The most common health care risk factors were a history of hospitalization, history of surgery,

long-term care residence (like in a nursing home) and prior MRSA infection.

Patients with recent contraction of bacteremia, pneumonia, cellulitis, osteomyelitis, endocarditis and septic shock were all at higher risks for MRSA infections than individuals who had undergone treatments for other diseases and illnesses.

Almost all of the cases were hospitalized, and of those cases, 178 percent died during their hospitalization. Many were also infected again by MRSA and had to receive additional courses of treatment.

Although conducted under meticulous and careful conditions, there are several possible sources of error in this study. In an error analysis, the leaders of this study revealed that they did not take into account the effect of health care from facilities using laboratories outside the surveillance area.

They also overlooked the possibility of careless medical history documentation at hospitals and other patient care facilities.

MRSA is considerably more worrisome than many other community-acquired infections because it is difficult to treat and there is currently no vaccination available to prevent it. It is spreading quickly in many vulnerable populations and has spread beyond the walls of hospitals.

This study helps bring to light the potential dangers of MRSA and provide the government and healthcare facilities with knowledge to help prevent and control the further spread of MRSA.

Bacterium digests complex sugar with new enzyme

By SAM OHMER
News-Letter Staff Writer

Complex carbohydrates are as important to living cells as are proteins and fats, but they are frequently given short shrift by biologists. Long chains of sugars, called polysaccharides, form an integral part of the external shell of bacterial cells and fungi, help cells recognize each other and participate in the attachment of cells to other surfaces.

New research from the laboratory of Saul Roseman, a professor in the Hopkins biology department who is recognized as a founder of the field of glycobiology, provides new insights into one common polysaccharide, chitin.

Chitin is the second most abundant polysaccharide in nature after cellulose, which makes up the bulk of most plants. Chitin is found in fungal cell walls and the shells of many animals, including insects and crustaceans.

It is especially abundant in marine environments. When many marine animals die, their remains must be processed or the chitin will eventually build up in quantities great enough to disrupt the marine ecosystem.

This is where bacteria such as *Vibrio cholerae* step in. *V. cholerae* causes the dreaded disease cholera in humans, but it forms an essential part of the normal marine ecosystem. The genome of *V. cholerae* contains a gene called *cod* that allows the cells to process chitin by breaking down the original molecular chain into simpler sugars and smaller organic products.

To study exactly how *V. cholerae* breaks down chitin, scientists modified the *cod* gene to cause an over-expression of the en-

zyme chitinase. The team found that chitinase is only produced in the presence of chitin and other polysaccharides. They also found that the enzyme is actively secreted by the *V. cholerae* cells into the surrounding environment, meaning that much of the enzyme's activity actually takes place outside of the cell.

This research is important because the breakdown of chitin is an essential component of the self-regulation of marine ecosystems. The process might also form part of a communication pathway between bacteria and plant cells in the marine environment, a suggestion that comes from the study of a similar chitin metabolizing pathway. The pathways involved in chitin degradation might also influence the infectivity of *V. cholerae* in humans, which continues to be a worldwide medical problem.

The discoveries regarding the enzymatic properties of chitinase could have real-world applications as well. Chitin is a much more versatile molecule than many people suspect. It is useful in flocculation, the process of binding dissolved compounds to pellets that can aggregate and be filtered out.

Chitin is also used as a strengthening agent in paper-making, a delivery vehicle for pharmaceuticals, a binder for adhesives and dyes, a natural plant fertilizer and an enhancer for wound healing.

Basic research, even into the ecology of a simple bacterium, often moves in surprising directions. By better understanding the function of the chitinase pathway, scientists might be able to manipulate chitin, allowing them to use it in a variety of industrial and biomedical applications.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.WIKIMEDIA.ORG](http://www.wikimedia.org)
Scanning electron image of *Vibrio cholerae* bacteria, which are able to digest chitin.

JHU experts argue for rotavirus vaccination

By AYESHA AFZAL
News-Letter Staff Writer

The second-leading global cause of death for children under five is diarrhea-related disease. In such cases, children lose such large quantities of salt and water that their bodies cannot cope with the losses, resulting in death.

These diseases are often extremely infectious because the pathogens, bacteria and viruses, are transmitted through human waste. In countries where sanitation is poor, these viruses can then enter the water supply and affect entire villages.

The leading cause of diarrhea-related diseases is rotavirus. The disease has a rapid onset and is soon fatal if left untreated. As of 2006, vaccines exist which have proven to be safe and effective in

combating the disease.

Recently a group of researchers at the Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health called for action to have the vaccination implemented in Asia, where thousands of children are killed by rotavirus each year. Its implementation has the potential to save many lives.

However as the researchers' analysis shows, many problems exist in the implementation of this vaccination in Asia. The first problem is the cost of the vaccine. Routine vaccinations are prohibitively expensive.

There is some controversy over this issue because some health officials do not believe that rotavirus is a leading cause of diarrhea-related death. In more developed countries, rotavirus mortality is rare and many doctors do not consider vaccination necessary.

The Hopkins experts point out that, in less developed countries, rotavirus has a tremendous impact and is often fatal, so a vaccination program is warranted. Even if a vaccination program were implemented in Asia, poor nutrition and differences in geography can decrease the effectiveness of

the vaccination. These problems are considerably more difficult to overcome.

The group concluded that the potential public health benefits outweigh other concerns. More investigation is needed, but so far, the vaccination is a good start.

Neurotransmitter pathway affects emotional memories

By BEN KALLMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

How is that you can remember, in detail, your first day of school, but can't recall what you ate for breakfast this morning? New research from a group at Hopkins may provide the answer. Their study, published last month in *Cell*, shows that emotion enhances memory by means of a single molecule, norepinephrine, whose concentration in the brain increases during stressful situations.

Because the brain's memory-storage capabilities are finite, distinguishing between significant and insignificant memories is a biological necessity. Evolutionarily advantageous information should be given priority over less relevant facts — for example, the color of a poisonous berry compared to the color of a stranger's eyes.

It has been well-established that stress is a key factor enhancing learning and, subsequently, memory. (Once the vomiting and hallucinations are over, you'll likely remember that berry's color.) In some cases, the relationship between stress and memory can go awry, as in post-traumatic

stress disorder. Generally though, it's effective in filtering out most of the trivial information that assails us each day.

At the cellular level, memory is nothing more than a strengthening, over time, of certain connections between neurons. Termed long-term potentiation, or LTP, there are various ways this can happen.

The most well-understood version occurs when a given neuron becomes more sensitive to signals — in the form of molecules called neurotransmitters — sent by a neighboring neuron. Primarily this involves increasing the number of neurotransmitter-specific receptors present at the synapse, the junction between two neurons where neurotransmitters are released and received.

Many scientists have hypothesized that stress somehow causes more receptors to be brought to the synapse during LTP and hence boosts retention of emotional memories. Nonetheless, until now the exact molecular mechanism has remained a mystery.

Several pathways have been proposed, and, while differing in their details, all start with one molecule: norepinephrine (NE).

During stressful situations, neurons in the brainstem release NE into several other areas of the brain, including the hippocampus, the center of memory formation.

Through a multi-step chemical pathway, NE ultimately activates a protein kinase called PKA. A protein kinase is the cellular equivalent of a highlighter; it tags other proteins by adding to them one or more highly energetic phosphate groups. A tagged protein is more recognizable to other molecules. In the case of memory formation, the proteins in question are, in fact, receptors.

The crux of the debate until now has been over which type of receptor PKA tags. The Hopkins team, led by Richard Huganir and working with researchers from the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island, N.Y., focused on one of the more promising candidates, AMPA receptors.

AMPA receptors bind to glutamate, the most common excitatory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system. When glutamate binds to an AMPA receptor, the receptor allows positively charged ions to flow into the cell. The neuron's charge thus

becomes more and more positive until, at a certain point, the influx of positive ions becomes self-perpetuating and eventually causes the neuron to signal the next cell.

With more AMPA receptors at the synapse, more glutamate can bind, more positive ions flow in, and a faster, stronger signal is passed on to other neurons. In other words, NE indirectly lowers the threshold for the long-term potentiation of a neuronal connection.

The researchers hypothesized that PKA preferentially tags an AMPA receptor subunit called GluR1. Proving this involved creating genetically engineered mice with a mutated version of GluR1. Compared with normal mice, the mutated mice showed an impairment in learning and memory when NE levels in the brain were elevated (that is, during emotionally-charged events).

Nonetheless, the researchers still saw some long-term potentiation of hippocampal cells in the mutant mice, suggesting that there are other mechanisms, yet to be discovered, by which NE can influence the strengthening of synapses along the path to memory formation.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.BROWN.EDU](http://www.brown.edu)
The rotavirus virion causes over one million deaths every year.

Pluto-bound satellite takes brief detour to Jupiter

New Horizons craft searches for water on Jupiter's moons

By VRITIKA PRAKASH
News-Letter Staff Writer

Are Jupiter's satellites the next best water source in the solar system? The New Horizon spacecraft, run in part by the Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, flew past Jupiter in February and March, using Jupiter's gravity to push forward on its way to Pluto. This was the closest we have ever been to Jupiter.

Fly-by images were taken of Europa and Ganymede, two of Jupiter's moons. Scientists were particularly interested in the moons' water content, from which they hoped to determine whether the water was native to the planet or had arrived via a collision with an icy comet.

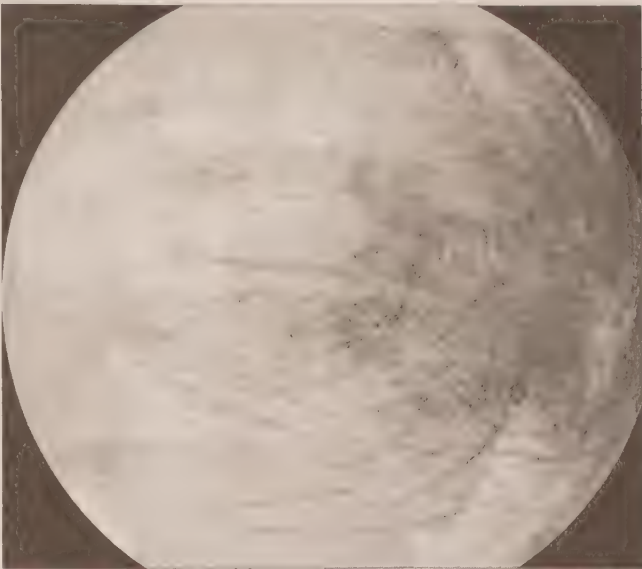
W.M. Grundy and the rest of the New Horizon team also hoped to gain a better understanding of the complex weather systems of the two planets. Infrared scans were used to give accurate data on surface compositions and the Long Range Reconnaissance Imager (LORRI) allowed the satellites to be seen from different angles, giving a more accurate image of the surface of the two satellites.

It is now known through the infrared spectral images that the distortion in water absorption previously seen on Europa is due to the other chemicals present on the surface. The entire extent of Europa is covered by this "non-ice" material. The lines seen on the European surface that scar the "non-ice" material probably indicate that the surface material came from an interior ocean.

Sulfur found in this area is thought to have come from a foreign source, hindering the possibility of life on the satellite. LORRI imaging has also shown that Europa absorbs less sunlight than previously thought.

Ganymede, the largest moon in our solar system, has a surface very similar to that of Europa. The bright, heavily-cratered southern hemisphere has a particularly strong water presence. The recent impact craters have splashed cleaner ice from below across the surface of Ganymede. This new information on Europa and Ganymede allow us to model a better image of the surface of both satellites than ever before.

It may turn out that these satellites could be a good water resource or even a place to live! As more data is collected, we can learn more of the satellites' habitat and environment. This is with the exception of the New Horizons craft: It is headed to Pluto to learn more about this new dwarf planet!



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.NASA.GOV](http://www.nasa.gov)
A composite image of Europa's surface shows the cracks that could harbor water ice.

Satellite travels up and down Jupiter's ionized tail to understand the planet's magnetic field

By JEROME SIMONS
News-Letter Staff Writer

Long travels can be quite cumbersome but not if there is something nice to discover along the way. The deep-space probe New Horizons, which is run by the Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md., is on a mission to catalog the recently demoted planet Pluto. However, Jupiter is on its way there, and the scientists running the satellite could not resist the opportunity for a detour.

The APL astrophysicists, led by Ralph McNutt, used the planet's gravity to boost the acceleration of the satellite. As it was flying by, they took a variety of measurements of the gas giant's magnetic field.

As published in the journal *Science*, the researchers gathered data about Jupiter's bent magnet-

ic field and how the solar wind affects the Jovian system.

The planets in our solar system are comparable to giant magnets because the large mass of rotating hot metals in their centers forms a magnetic field that reaches far out into space. Earth's magnetic field stretches several times beyond the farthest reach of our atmosphere.

These magnetic fields are affected by the Sun, which emits a constant stream of charged particles. Our planet is protected from the solar wind by its magnetic field, which deflects the charged particles and prevents them from entering our atmosphere. This is true for Jupiter as well, but since the charged particles arrive in large quantities at a high speed, the magnetic field is bent away from the Sun.

It appears that the Jupiter system loses part of its magnetic field because the solar wind drains the particle clouds that orbit Jupiter and its moons. It is expected that particles emitted by the Sun travel down the length of the magnetotail, but the content of this stream indicates that Jupiter is actually losing matter.

These streams of matter are composed primarily of sulfur and oxygen, which are released by volcanic eruptions from Jupiter's moon Io. Explosions fling vast amounts of charged particles into Jupiter's orbit where they are trapped in a "magnetic bottle." They then travel down

towards the unknown end of the tail. The Jovian system loses half a metric ton every second in particles that weigh a tiny fraction of a microgram.

New Horizon's path happens to lie directly in Jupiter's magnetotail. This tail is of special interest because it is one of the largest objects in our solar system. It originates near the surface of the night-side of the planet and reaches far into the outer reaches of our solar system, pointing away from the Sun. These results uncover intense activity on Jupiter's surface: storms, ash falls and the particle drain keep up a massive matter flow away from the planet.

To distinguish between different particles in the tail, New Horizons measured the energy and charge to determine the speeds. By this method the researchers were able to make predictions about the particles' origins. The probe itself underwent a rigorous journey: 71,400 kilometers along the magnetotail let it experience extreme heat and cold due to the different streams it went through.

In fact, New Horizons was traveling through a huge disk of particle clouds because Jupiter itself rotates 2.4 times faster than the Earth. Given that it is 1,318 times bigger than Earth the magnetic field is rotating at a considerably high speed.

As of now, New Horizons is further on its way to Pluto. The next time we will hear from Jupiter will be in 2016 when the Juno mission will head to the gas giant.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.NASA.GOV](http://www.nasa.gov)
This NASA diagram shows the broad sweep of Jupiter's magnetic field as it curves away from the Sun.

Mental stress increases drug susceptibility

By TIFFANY NG
News-Letter Staff Writer

Researchers at the Hopkins School of Medicine recently discovered a possible link between mental stress and susceptibility to the effects of psychostimulants, such as amphetamines and cocaine.

Previous studies have shown that the rewarding effects of drugs are mainly derived from the increased release of the neurotransmitter dopamine (DA) in several deeper brain structures that lie below the cortex.

In humans, stress has been determined to be one of the causes of substance abuse, as well as a significant contributor to relapse. As a first step in the biological response to stress, the hormone cortisol is released into the body, the amount of which is regulated by both the environment and genetic factors.

Other investigations have shown that stress increases DA activity and that the administration of DA facilitates the psychostimulant effects of cocaine and morphine.

Furthermore, stress-induced cocaine cravings have been linked to a shorter time before a recovering drug addict relapses, as well as a great dose of cocaine taken by the user.

In this study, scientists led by

Gary Wand of the departments of medicine and psychiatry subjected participants to injections of amphetamines, after which the amount of DA activity was measured indirectly by use of a brain scan called positron emission tomography, or PET.

Participants were asked to rate the degree to which they were experiencing each of ten possible drug side effects: High, rush, good effects, liking, desire for drug, anxious, dizziness, distrust and dry mouth.

The same group of subjects was then put through the Trier Social Stress Test, where they were asked to perform unrehearsed speeches and mental arithmetic under time constraints and intense observation. Afterwards their cortisol levels were measured.

The researchers found that those with high cortisol levels in response to the stress test would also be high releasers of DA in response to the amphetamines. Additionally, there was also a positive correlation between cortisol release and the "high," "good," "liking" and "rush" subjective responses. In other words, high cortisol secreters are high DA releasers and experience greater subjective effects — a bigger high — from psychostimulants than low cortisol secreters.

Previous studies confirm this correlation, with findings indicating that stress contributes to the development, maintenance and outcome of substance use disorders.

But before you whip out that syringe in response to your upcoming midterms with the intention of taking full advantage of your high cortisol levels, be aware that the relationship between glucocorticoids and drug reinforcement cannot be established due to the correlational nature of this study. (Also, it's a really bad idea.)

If a link between substance abuse disorders and cortisol is confirmed, the consequences could be far-reaching. Statistics have shown that of the estimated 22 million Americans who are addicted to drugs, only a small percentage of them are ever admitted to a rehabilitation program, and even fewer successfully complete one.

If dopamine measurements can be shown to predict consumption or relapse, drug rehabilitation programs could be specifically tailored to the needs of users, resulting in more effective cures, as well as fewer cases of relapse.

The results of the study appear in the November 2007 issue of the journal *Neuropsychopharmacology*.

For music lovers: Shure E2c headphones sound great

By DENNIS KO
News-Letter Staff Writer

Two weeks ago I was able to get ahold of a pair of Shure E2c earphones from Amazon for only \$40. The retail price is \$99, so at 60 percent off, these seemed to be a great deal.

On top of that, my original iPhone headphones just weren't cutting it, so I decided to give the Shure headphones a try.

As a side note, there are three reasons you should not use the iPhone or iPod earphones Apple supplies. First, the sound quality is terrible; there's no bass and it leaks sound like none other.

Second, according to a study done by the *New York Times*, the signature white earphones attract unwanted attention to people who want to steal your iPod or iPhone.

Third, they aren't very comfortable. And unless you're a true Apple fanboy, why be a walking advertisement for Apple? But enough of that, and back to the Shures.

Out of the box, the Shure earphones come with a little carrying case as well as eight pairs of sleeves to fit your earphones.

When I first took out the earphones, I was confused about how to put on these things because right and left aren't marked on the earphones — they're color-coded.

Luckily for me, Shure included a little pamphlet with a picture of how to wear the earbuds properly. You're supposed to try all the

sleeves they've provided to find the perfect fit, but the sleeves that came installed on the earphones fit my ears perfectly, so I just stuck with them.

I tested these earphones with two main audio sources, my computer and an iPod, playing a variety of music ranging from classical to hard rock.

The first time I listened to the iPod with the headphones on, I thought the music was really loud, but in reality, it showed how well the earphones could funnel music into my ears.

In fact, while using the Shures, I missed three calls even though my phone was sitting a foot away on my desk. It's easy to lose track of your surroundings with these headphones. In terms of sound quality, I heard a good range

of mid and high tones, but sometimes the bass can be quite low. I found that if I readjusted the earphones to fit better in my ear, then the bass would improve a bit, but it still wasn't really loud.

Overall, the earphones are a great improvement from most factory-supplied earbuds out there. The sound-isolating effect the earphones bring is nearly perfect, which is good for those of you who have noisy roommates and want to tune them out.

What the E2c lacks in sound quality, it more than makes up for with its price. And with Amazon currently offering these for \$59 (heavily discounted from the list price), these could make great gifts for all those music junkies out there.



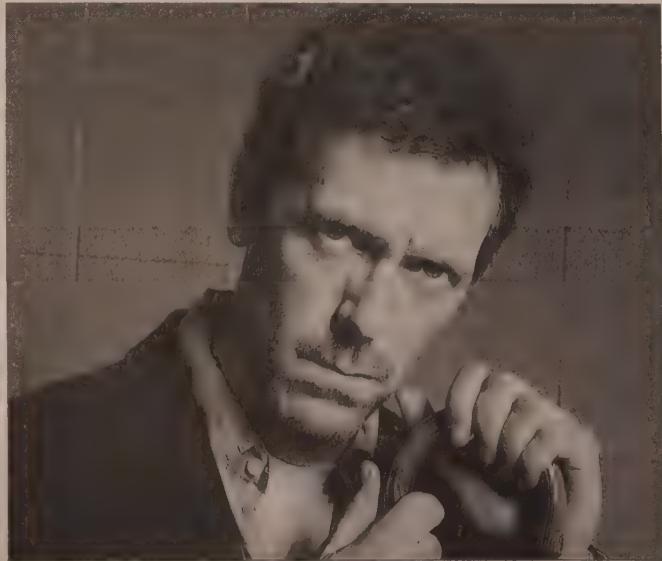
COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.SOOMAL.COM](http://www.soomal.com)
Enshure E2c headphones have been designed for good sound quality in a small space.

Leaving against MD's advice is a bad plan

By ALICE WU
News-Letter Staff Writer

Among the plethora of television shows about hospitals, emergency rooms and certain unconventional doctors, one of the least mentioned topics is a specific group of patient whose medical record often stops at the emergency room front desk — patients who leave the hospital against medical advice.

They may be overwhelmed by the ER, feel impatient while waiting to be seen or have second thoughts about treatment. Whatever the cause, physicians have tried for years to find ways to prevent patients from leaving the emergency room prematurely, only to come back days later with exacerbated symptoms.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.YAHOO.COM](http://www.yahoo.com)
Leaving a hospital against medical advice is a bad idea, unless this guy is your M.D.

As problematic as this scenario may be, few studies have been conducted on this patient group. Clinicians from the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Hopkins School of Medicine collected and analyzed the registration and billing data for ER patients over a 12-month period between 2004 and 2005.

The patients enrolled in the study were divided into four groups: Patients who left the hospital against medical advice, patients who left without being treated, patients who were admitted and patients who were treated and discharged.

Out of the total sample size of 32,391 subjects, about 857 left the hospital against medical advice and 2,767 left without being seen. Most of the patients who left

against medical advice showed symptoms of nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain and nonspecific chest pain upon initial visit to the emergency room.

Most of those who left against medical advice were unmarried, were unemployed and most important, paid for their expenses themselves. The analysis also concluded that subjects who left against medical advice were most similar to those who left without being seen in terms of demographic characteristics.

One important conclusion of this study is that during a 30-day follow-up period, patients who left against medical advice were significantly more likely to return to the emergency department and subsequently be hospitalized.

Since the study was conducted at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, which serves as the community hospital for nearby residents of the low-income neighborhood, the rate of patients who left against medical advice (2.5 percent) is greater than the national rate of 1.3 percent.

This study provides conclusive evidence that patients who left against medical advice and those who left without being seen were more likely to return to the emergency room later with more severe symptoms.

While the reasons why patients leave the emergency room prematurely are still unknown, physicians must do what they can to prevent them from leaving against medical advice, as there are predictably detrimental consequences of such a decision.

YOUR NEWS-LETTER

Dorm Decor: How to make your room YOURS! Video gaming may not be as tame as it seems

By CARA SELICK
Your News-Letter Editor

Let's face it, while the dorms at Hopkins are pretty nice as far as amenities go, the white walls and jail cell-square rooms don't exactly scream out "home."

Luckily, there are a few minor adjustments you can make to transform your room into a space defined by you and not just the number on your door.

The most obvious way to personalize your room is through your bed.

After all, where do you spend more time than lounging in bed doing homework, or lounging in bed surfing online, or lounging in bed watching TV, or lounging in bed sleeping or ... you get the point. The bed is the central focus point of any bedroom.

I'm sure that in the summer before freshman year you picked out your bedding and that was that; you've kept it the same ever since. That's absolutely fine, as bedding can be expensive and a real pain to switch.

However, you can expand upon what you already have. Something as simple as a cute pillow can add a little something to your bed. Or instead of hiding your favorite teddy bear from home under the bed, show some pride in your love

and perch him on top. He'll add some extra charm to your room, not to mention how grateful he'll feel!

If you're not really into the potentially girly additions of pillows and toys and such,

more closely. All the posters people own are basically the same: Either a cool picture with some saying below like "Inspiration" or "Teamwork" or a famous work of art or a rock band. So how can you make sure you

And if you do it through a site like <http://www.cvs.com>, you can even pick the pictures up at the local store and save the shipping fees! What could be more personal and homey than seeing the faces of your friends and family every morning when you first wake up? To add an extra flair, arrange the photos in patterns on your wall.

This last quick fix only applies if you're in a double. The first couple of months of school it's understandable that you want your own space while you're adjusting to your new room. However, after you've had time to get to know your roommate, OPEN UP A LITTLE!

I don't mean just by talking to him or her but by literally opening up your room. Doubles in the freshmen dorms and McCoy set up the rooms with a nice little partition of desks and wardrobes.

While this may be great for privacy, it's awful for promoting roomie unity. I highly urge you to swing all the furniture against the walls, leaving the room open and giving you the opportunity to actually interact with your roommate. In addition, this also can make your room look twice as large. What's the worst thing that could possibly happen? If it gets too awkward, you can just put it back the way you found it!

Other small touches that can help:

Flowers — OK, I hate having to upkeep any plant, and flowers are especially likely to die within two seconds when under my not-so-green-thumb. But keeping around flowers made of wood, plastic or another durable material can add a certain happiness to your small space.

Mirrors — As long as you haven't watched too many horror films, mirrors can be great! Not only is it just nice to see more of yourself than those wardrobe mirrors allow (or see yourself, period, if you live in a dorm with closets and no University-supplied mirrors), but mirrors can create the illusion of more space in a room.

Towel hangers — Please get your towels off your nasty floor and hang them on your wall or door. Please.

A bookcase — Certain dorms (such as in the Commons) don't supply shelves for your books. Getting fairly cheap and fun-shaped shelves from Target can add some funk and functionality to your dorm.



CARA SELICK/YOUR-NEWS-LETTER EDITOR
Accent pillows, your favorite teddy bear and awesome photos easily personalize a dorm.

there is a very simple, very traditional way to make your room reflect who you are. Obviously dorm rooms are pretty boring. Wood beds, wood furniture, white walls. Those darn white walls.

While, unfortunately, we are not allowed to paint on University property, there are less permanent ways to make your walls less boring. Posters are the most commonly-used tool to get the job done. Most college dorms you walk into will have the walls covered in posters declaring who their favorite actor is, what their favorite band is, what their favorite drink is and, most importantly, how to mix their favorite drink.

However, there is a catch. Look around your friends' rooms

escape the cliché wall hangings of Maroon 5 and Stewie Griffin?

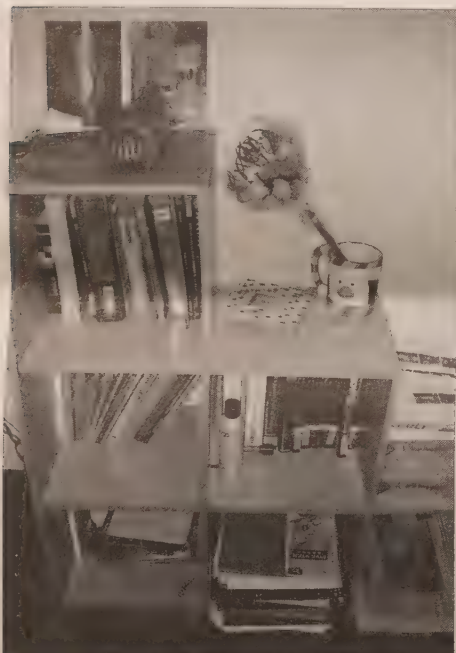
The answer is actually quite simple: Instead of hanging up things that you like, why don't you hang up something that means something to you instead?

For instance, you know all those awesome concerts you went to this year at Sonar? Instead of buying an expensive poster to plaster on your wall, just save the ticket stub!

Tickets can make really cool additions to your wall, especially if they're from various places and events. Or take some colorful Post-Its, write memorable quotes them and smack them on up next to those ticket stubs!

You'll be surprised to see how quickly you accumulate various pieces of paper and such that have meaning in your life. (For an even cooler wall, try taping up your favorite News-Letter articles or even ones you wrote yourself!)

Of course there is one wall hanging that is more personal than all the rest. You may have heard that "A picture tells a thousand words." Well imagine 100 pictures and how many words they could tell. Many sites will let you upload your photos online and have them printed out in real picture quality for about 10-15 cents a photo.



CARA SELICK/YOUR-NEWS-LETTER EDITOR
This decorative shelf holds books and more!

YOUR tracks

Compiled by Sean Murphy

Something old, something new ... well, OK, just something old. This playlist is enough to make you fall in love with music all over again! So ease back into the trippy lyrics of the Beatles and the crazy guitar riffs of Hendrix, and enjoy as you listen to this out-of-this-world (and out-of-this-generation) mix!

1. "Twentieth Century Fox" by The Doors: Every time I hear this song I think of a go-go dancer on stage next to Jim Morrison. It may evoke a crazy image, but when you listen to the song, you'll realize one of your friends is a "Twentieth Century Fox."
2. "Can You Get to That" by Funkadelic: Funk just makes me happy.
3. "Dolly Dagger" by Jimi Hendrix: The song is about a roadie who drank the blood dripping from Mick Jagger's cut finger. That's grounds for a crazy song and Hendrix does it justice with great rhythm guitar and solos.
4. "Ease Back" by the Meters: The song may have no words and consist of the same riffs over and over again, but it's hypnotizing.
5. "I Am the Walrus" by The Beatles: I have no idea what it means to be the walrus, but this song is a trip.
6. "Free Ride" by Edgar Winter: This song is in the movie *Dazed and Confused*, so it deserves a place on the playlist. If you haven't seen the movie, rent it or use DC++.
7. "Sing a Simple Song" by Sly and the Family Stone: Again, funk is just awesome. Lots of treble and bass never hurt anyone.
8. "Magic Carpet Ride" by Steppenwolf: Drug euphemisms always make for good songs.
9. "Blister in the Sun" by the Violent Femmes: I'm always reminded of the poem "Raisin in the Sun" by Langston Hughes when I hear this song. They don't really have anything else in common but the words "blister in the sun," but both are great.
10. "Got my Mojo Working" by Muddy Waters: Every guy has experienced what Muddy belts out here: "I got my mojo workin', but it just won't work on you."

Evolution of dance from dirty waltzing to grinding

By JULIE DISCHELL
For The News-Letter

The phrase "the evolution of dance" will always remind me of one thing and one thing only.

During my senior year of high school, we were planning this huge conference for student councils from schools across the country. It was all the administrators talked about.

One night we had a lock-in to get us pumped for it and they brought in a motivational speaker named Judson Laipply.

While his show was hilarious, the best part was the finale: The evolution of dance. On our dinky little stage, there he was, this man of at least 30, performing songs from our childhood and our parents' childhoods. It was an experience none of us would ever or could ever forget, considering it is now the most-watched video on YouTube.

While I could tell you to simply go watch the video and my work would be done here, there is much more to the evolution of dance than the hits of the last five decades.

Dancing is basically using movement as a means of expression. Almost any form can be considered dance.

There are those that are generally accepted, of course, such as ballet, ballroom, tap and jazz, but what about gymnastics, figure skating, martial arts, fencing and sex?

The criteria for qualifying as

dance are broader than those of qualifying as a sport. Dance can mean so many things. It can be social, ceremonial, cooperative, competitive, religious, erotic, interpretive, etc. Essentially, dance is what you make it.

It is impossible to say when dance officially began. Archaeological evidence in the forms of cave and tomb paintings shows us that dancing has been a part of human civilization since at least 3,000 years before the Common Era. People used different forms of dance in their religious rituals and as a way to tell stories.

The rhythm required in dancing is a basic element of music, and it's natural to lose oneself in the intoxicating, rhythmic movement created by dance. In his epic the *Iliad*, Homer describes a type of ancient Greek

dancing called chorea in which the performers would honor a god. There would also be drunken erotic dancing in Greece after harvesting the grapes in the name of Dionysus.

In Egypt, the priests and priestesses would perform stately movements that mimed significant events in the story of a

god, or alternatively they would imitate cosmic patterns such as the rhythm of night and day.

It was also very common for people to dance at funerals to express the grief of the mourners.

Dance did not truly become a form of entertainment until the advent of ballet, beginning with the influence of Catherine de Medici.

In 1581, the first dramatic ballet was produced for her: "Ballet Comique de la Reine" by her



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
It's hard to imagine that sweet little swing was ever radical!

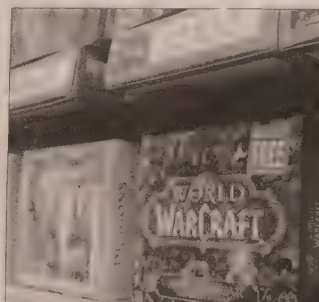
director of court festivals. The French and Italian love for dance continued for centuries, resulting in the creation of more ballets and even schools of dance such as l'Académie Royale de Danse and l'Académie Royale de Musique, which together formed the famed Paris Opéra, which is still in existence today.

nore what is being played out on the TV screen. What you'll hear is a cacophony of swearing, groans, victory chants and the like. What you'll see is eyes fixated on the TV, people on the edge of their seats and the occasional spasm. If you've never played online, you truly don't understand.

While not along the lines of online gaming, Guitar Hero is another game I should have avoided. I know that most of you have tried it at least once, and I know how much fun you've had. Mirroring DDR, Guitar Hero is another game where you, the music illiterate, can become a rock star. Between jamming with or against a friend, you really feel like those chords came from your fingers on those five buttons. I played until my fingers hurt, but I didn't care. I was a rock star.

While I wouldn't consider myself an intense gamer, I've seen the effects they have had on people. One such game of a caliber of unspeakable evil is World of Warcraft, a.k.a. WoW. Thankfully, something inside of me told me not to try the 15-day trial of WoW that my friends attempted to coerce me into trying. From what I could piece together, the game requires a monthly online subscription to be able to play in a massive multiplayer online role playing game (MMORPG) and is highly addictive. You define your character, spells and whatnot to battle in cyberspace. Regrettably, I've lost a few friends to WoW. Damn you, Blizzard Entertainment. Damn you.

Things have changed for the better, though. This year I limit my gaming time to a mere few hours each week. It has certainly changed how I perform in school and I would highly suggest any gamer to do so as well. Well, that's one problem solved ... now to work on not being an engineer anymore.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
WoW has been known to sap lives.

The waltz was also introduced at about this time. It was all the rage in the 16th century. However, some people found all of its gliding and whirling movements undignified, leading the church to ban it in certain parts of Germany.

The waltz was the first dance that truly stood for freedom of expression and freedom of movement, opening the door for all sorts of dancing.

The waltz laid the groundwork for new dances in the 20th century such as the tango, the jitterbug, the twist, boogie, swing and disco.

America was looking toward foreign lands for new beats and movements in the 20th century, and found them in the South American and African styles of dance.







Today, a wide variety of dance styles are acceptable. Ballet always retains major popularity as do swing and tango dancing.

Here at Hopkins you can join clubs in which you can learn all three. There are also places to learn the

moves of newer styles like break dancing and pole dancing. I would be inclined to tell you that I'm a horrible dancer, but with all the different styles out there, it would be a major feat to be incapable of all of them. I might not be able to work the ballroom, but a frat party? Now that's a different story.

CARTOONS, ETC.

your horoscope



Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
Copy cats are the worst kind of cats. They should be sterilized and allowed to go extinct. But they just keep on reproducing.

Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
Editors have to stay in the Gatehouse on Halloween. So if you wanna see some really scary people, try trick-or-treating at the Gatehouse.

Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
You make me want to puke. Just looking at you makes me nauseous. You know what, stop reading this before I hurl. Love, the text.

Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
Guys at Hopkins think wearing pajamas to class is sexy. It's not — we can see your fiddlestick. For real sometimes!

Leo: (July 23 - August 22)
Are you actually reading this? Because for real, your pathetic little life is slipping through your fingers with every word you read.

Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22)
Really? You got pierced down there? What does it feel like when you wear jeans? WHOA.

Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22)
Great God, you haven't been to class in three weeks? Get your butt to office hours and bring your blank checks.

Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21)
Except for Sunday mornings in front of the television, pajama wiener at any other time is simply unacceptable.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
For all men, pajama wiener is a terrible, terrible affliction easily avoided by putting on pants. Any kind of opaque pants.

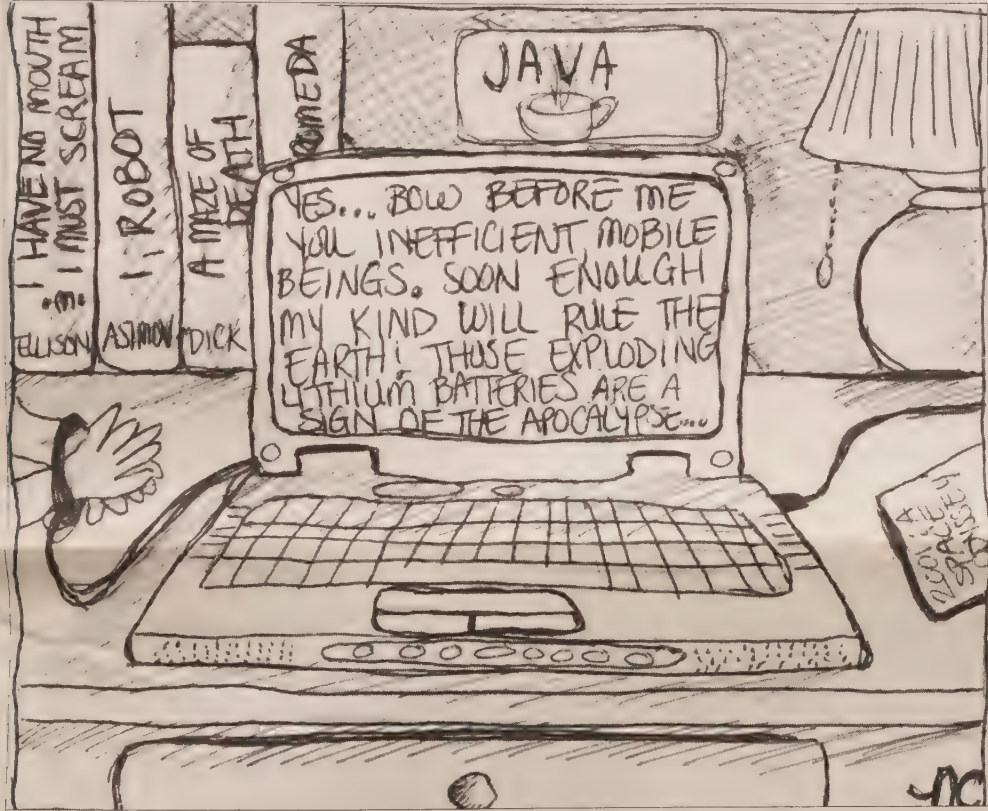
Capricorn: (Dec. 22 - January 19)
Finding a date to your date party is better than going stag because you can get off watching your date hook up with your frat brother.

Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18)
Comma yo' momma doesn't mean anything. And this horoscope doesn't mean anything to you now, but if you play your cards right, you might understand later.

Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Splices and Dices is the name of my band. And it won the Battle of the Bands two years in a row.

Random Information

by Natachi Chukumerije



Sudoku

2			3	8				6
5	8	6	9		1		2	
				4				
		1				9	8	
		3		2		7		
	9	8				3		
				6				
	6		1		3	2	9	7
1				9	7			8

Word Search

Find: 2 soda brands, 4 eating utensils, 6 Greek gods, and 8 body organs

s a p p e k s e i r a
m k n s s c h a f l s
u a i g k c r s o f d
s n n n a t y c o l n
c u i m e e a r r i i
l f o m n c k a s v a
e t i d o r h p a e r
s s i c o s e o r r b
u k c p p p a l e s m
e r s n s i r l h a k
z u e p b a t o u h m

Comicali

by Joe Micali

IN THE FUTURE

Star Date 2007 A.D.

bury my shell at wounded knee

This week's topic: New Phrases

This party is so ga...

Hey, you best not be intolerant

This party is totally dumbledore!

Thank you

Wasted Ink

by Nate Min

Looks like snow.

What's the weather like today?

Okay. Thanks.

A Photo in Time

by Nate Min

Bungee jumping does not work in reverse.

Tips for staying in shape in college

George gazed out the window through the dusty slats of the shades. There was a dead fly lying on one. Carol would throw a fit if she ever saw this place, he thought. No wonder she divorced me. He exhaled smoke against the window pane. It bounced off the glass and curled back towards him in little angry clouds. He noticed that it was a rainy day outside. Good, he thought. Business is always better when it's raining out.

He stepped away from the window and surveyed the fourth-story rathole he called an office. The chair with fraying upholstery, cocked across from his desk for clients to sit in. The wall calendar that his daughter had given him for Christmas, still flipped to August. The pile of business cards frozen in a tumble off the edge of his desk. George Kearny, they said, Puppy Investigator.

He sat in the reclining swivel chair behind his desk, leaned back and put his heels on the edge of his desk, the right one folded over the left, and blew another slow, angry cloud over his head. "God, I'd love to kick this habit," he thought, "but damn if it doesn't calm the stress of the job better than that yoga shit Carol had tried to get me into." It was the job that had ripped their marriage apart, like a mastiff shredding a new chew toy. Well, mostly the job.

As he sat there, smoking and waiting for the next month's rent to walk through that door with the pebbled glass window, he thought about the choices he had made, the things he had seen. It was a filthy business, snooping around on puppies for wealthy clients with God-knows-what motives. George tried not to think about it too much as he went about his job. Taking notes on his favorite toys, surreptitiously photographing walks, hiding in bushes and recording the frequency and nature of bowel movements. It was the work he loved — hell, it was the only thing he knew, yet it ate him up inside. What would that kind of information be used for? Legal stuff? Worse? George knew there were some men in his field who weren't as scrupulous as he was, and he hoped none of his information would ever find its way into their hands. He was proud to call himself a Puppy Investigator — one of the best out there, at that — but he tried not

for wealthy clients with God-knows-what motives. George tried not to think about it too much as he went about his job. Taking notes on his favorite toys, surreptitiously photographing walks, hiding in bushes and recording the frequency and nature of bowel movements. It was the work he loved — hell, it was the only thing he knew, yet it ate him up inside. What would that kind of information be used for? Legal stuff? Worse? George knew there were some men in his field who weren't as scrupulous as he was, and he hoped none of his information would ever find its way into their hands. He was proud to call himself a Puppy Investigator — one of the best out there, at that — but he tried not

woman nonetheless.

"Now then," he gestured to the ratty chair, "why don't you have a seat, sweetheart?"

She sat down. He offered her a cigarette.

"No thanks," she cooed, "I only smoke after sex."

"I'll have to remember that," George replied. "So what brings you to me?"

"There's a Pekinese." Miss Wilde reached into her purse to get a picture and gave it to George.

"He belong to you?"

"The way he sees it, he don't belong to no one except himself."

"I know the type." George handed the picture back to Miss Wilde.

Miss Wilde told George about the problem with her Pekinese, Pebbles. Pebbles was gaining weight, see, but she'd only been feeding him diet Purina, the kind in the yellow bag. Pebbles had free reign of the neighborhood, Miss Wilde said, because he always came back home and was smart enough to avoid cars. So she wanted to know where he'd been getting all those extra calories. There were lots of people in the neighborhood who'd be only too happy to see Pebbles get fat, see? Lots of people.

"So that's where I come in, huh? Tail the dog, find the source?" George asked.

"If you think you can handle it, Kearny," she replied.

"I think I can keep up with Pebbles ... Say, a broad's got to eat, right? What do you say we head down to a joint I know?"

"You might be able to handle Pebbles," Miss Wilde said as she leaned back in her chair, "but I don't think you can handle me. I'm half the legs and twice the trouble, sweetheart."

To be continued ...

Adar Eisenbruch

Let's Talk

SPORTS

W. Soccer in a grind match against Ursinus

The Lady Blue Jays struggled against the Ursinus Bears, in a grueling double-overtime game of defenses which ended in a tie

Continued from Page B12
corner kicks. Sophomore goalie Karen Guskowski had three saves for Hopkins, making it her fifth shut out this season.

Two Hopkins players were named to the Centennial Conference Honor Roll this week for their efforts against McDaniel (4-14, 3-7) on Oct. 23 and Ursinus (11-4-3) this past week. Senior forward Kim Lane and Guskowski both received the honor. Lane scored the game-winning goal against McDaniel and led the Lady Jays offense against Ursinus. Guskowski posted back-to-back shutouts against the two teams, which helped the Jays clinch the top spot in the Centennial Conference playoffs.

In terms of the whole team, the Jays have been fantastic on the defensive side of the ball this season. Hopkins has allowed only 14 goals on the year and has posted 10 shutouts this season. Guskowski has been strong in the net for the Jays with a goals-against average of 0.43 and entering this week with five shutouts. Senior goalie Kerry Hamilton has added to the defensive strength in relief with a goals-against average of 2.27 and a shutout of her own.

On offense, Lane has nine assists this season and 14 for her career. She needs two more assists to tie both the single-season and career assists mark at Hopkins. Lane has 24 career goals and needs one more to move into the top five for career goals for Hopkins. Steele has 25 career goals and needs two more to move into the top five in career goals.

The Jays are hosting the Centennial Conference Tournament on Nov. 3 and 4. The Jays will play the winner of the Gettysburg and Haverford game in the

first semifinal game on Saturday. The winner of that game will then go on to play in Sunday's championship.

Both teams are worthy adversaries, but the Lady Jays are ready for anything, being on the hot streak that they are.

Haverford handed Hopkins a 1-0 loss earlier this season; however, the Lady Jays are optimistic, leading the all-time series with Haverford 9-6-2. Hopkins

is also thinking positively about the idea of having to play Gettysburg; they won the second straight match against the Bulldogs, despite Gettysburg leading the all-time series with Hopkins 11-8-1.

This will be Hopkins's seventh appearance in the Centennial Conference Tournament. Hopkins is 5-0-1 in Centennial Conference semifinal games and 3-2 in the title game.



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman forward David Drake blasts upfield through the Gettysburg defenders.



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior forward Kim Lane dribbles the ball past Ursinus defenders to set up a shot.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Men's Soccer	15-3-0 record First seed in Centennial Conference
Women's Soccer	12-4-2 record 2nd in Conference
Field Hockey	13-4 record
Water Polo	12-12 record Ranked 2nd in CWPA DIII Ranked 20th in CWPA Top 20
Women's Cross-Country	Ranked 29th (USTFCCA)
Men's Cross-Country	Not ranked
Football	3-5 record
Volleyball	23-4 record

M. Soccer back on track with two-win regular season close

Continued from Page B12
22nd minute as he sent the ball sailing from 15 yards away.

The game remained tied until the 52nd minute, when Drake was able to take advantage of a rebound Petrucci couldn't handle.

Drake finished the regular season with most game-winning goals (four) in the conference. Hopkins outshot their opponents 28-7, ending the regular season with a conference-leading 169 shots.

To add to the team's resurgence, Drake was given his first of what is sure to be many career honors this week when he was named Centennial Conference Offensive Player of the Week. The honor was well-earned as Drake provided the game winners in both of Hopkins victories this past week.

The freshman finished the regular season second on the team in goals and third in points with 12 and 26, respectively. Drake's exceptional play along with fellow freshman Scott Bukoski has earned them much respect from their teammates. Those two freshmen have been a great ad-

dition to the program," McAbee said.

The Jays will have to wait until Nov. 3 for their next match, against Muhlenberg College, in the first round of the Centennial Conference tournament. Franklin & Marshall College is hosting the tournament. Ranked fourth in the Mid-Atlantic Region, Muhlenberg poses a threat to Hopkins' road to the finals, but in their first game earlier this season, Hopkins was able to beat Muhlenberg by a score of 2-1.

The Jays hope to surpass their Centennial Conference title from last year, when the team advanced to the Elite 8 of the NCAA tournament and won a school record 19 games.

Ultimately, the goal of this year's men's team would be to win the national championship, and they are prepared to do just that.

McAbee took a more conservative approach. "We definitely want to just take it one game at a time."

The Jays will travel to Pennsylvania on Saturday to face Muhlenberg.



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Chicago Tribune

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SPORTS

Blue Jays defeat Bryn Mawr 9-0

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12

"We are hoping to play Ursinus again [in the conference finals on Sunday] as that score doesn't reflect how hard we fought in the game and we really want a chance to show them what we are made of and win the conference."

The day after their defeat by Ursinus, the Lady Jays went back on the field for their final game of the regular season against Bryn Mawr. Hopkins controlled the game from beginning to end. Six Hopkins players scored in the game. Emily Miller got her second hat trick of the season, and freshman Sarah Jacobs scored her first goal for Hopkins.

The Jays' control of the game was not unexpected, as the Owls finished the season 0-10 in the Centennial Conference for the season.

Emily Miller scored the team's first goal off of an assist by junior Adair Landy only slightly over three minutes into the game. Sophomore Chantal Serle then extended the lead-off of senior Lucy Webster's penalty corner. Sophomore Gabi Henn and senior Sarah Bender scored Hopkins' third and fourth goals off of loose balls in front of the cage.

Henn had her second goal of the day immediately after halftime, increasing Hopkins' lead to 5-0 as the Bryn Mawr defense was helpless to prevent the Jays' attack. This lopsided play continued as Miller scored two consecutive goals to complete her hat trick.

Junior Leah Horton and freshman Sarah Jacobs completed Hopkins' scoring bonanza for the game with 13 minutes still left to play.

The seventh-ranked Jays will play Muhlenberg in the semifinal game on Saturday in Collegeville, Penn. at 11 a.m. If the team wins the game, they will play for the Centennial Conference title on Sunday at 1 p.m.



Sophomore Chris Doscas smiles and falls at 120 miles per hour with an instructor.

JHU unofficial extreme club sport: Student skydiving

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12

parachute at a certain altitude, so even if the diver falls unconscious, the chute will still open.

In 2006, approximately 2,300,000 skydives were made in the United States. Of these, only 18 resulted in death. Most of the deaths were the result of dangerous professional stunts gone wrong, resulting in high-speed, unsafe landings.

The real danger of skydiving is its addictive nature. After a jump, most skydivers can't stop talking about it. They dream about it. They will smile for days, something skydivers refer to as the "perma-smile." There is a certain moment when the sport becomes a part of you, and it's nearly impossible to let it go. For senior Rod Boden, founder of the club, this moment came with his second tandem jump.

"The freefall was incredible, but when we opened the canopy,

I saw the most incredible thing I've ever seen."

"The sun was setting right next to Philadelphia and when we made a turn, I could see the ocean and the deep red-orange reflecting off of the casinos in Atlantic City.

At that moment I went from wanting to learn to skydive to needing to learn to skydive. I haven't looked back since!"

With the advent of winter and the approach of cold weather, the skydiving season is beginning to wind down. However, it should be

fully vitalized and possibly an official Johns Hopkins Student Club by spring.

Boden urges those who wish to get involved or learn more about the club and its future to join the Facebook group "Flying Blue Jays Skydiving Club," which is the club's main resource for organization and communication.

Until then, as skydivers say, "Blue skies!"

I went from wanting to learn to skydive to needing to learn to skydive.

— ROD BODEN, FOUNDER OF THE SKYDIVING CLUB

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK CHAND BALFOUR, MEN'S SOCCER

Balfour's Brazilian inspiration

By MARY DOMAN
Sports Editor

On Jan. 25, 1984, a soccer legend was born in the rugged streets of São Vicente, Brazil. While his plumber father and janitor mother worked during the day, he spent most of his time kicking the soccer ball in the streets. He developed a passion for the game. However, he was scrawny and malnourished, and no one ever thought he would one day become one of the world's most celebrated athletes.

Four years and 113 days later, in Montclair, N.J., Athlete of the Week Chand Balfour was born. His father and mother own a health care business, and he spent his youth playing in suburban organized soccer leagues.

So maybe the solid facts don't parallel exactly. But Brazilian National Team member Robson de Souza — known as "Robinho" — and Hopkins sophomore forward Chand Balfour have a special similarity that makes their names almost synonymous. Indeed, the same thing that kept Robinho playing on the streets for years has kept Balfour's feet moving as well.

"I have a love for the game," Balfour said. "It's my passion."

Balfour began playing soccer when he was five. "My brother and dad made me play," he said. At the same age, Robinho also followed his brother's footsteps onto the soccer field.

However, as Balfour started his elementary education at Northeast Elementary School, Robinho also began his educa-

tion in the Santos soccer program. Balfour took his lunch for the first time. Robinho received three meals a day for the first time.

But again, don't let their different ages, names, nationalities or childhood diets stop you from accepting what many believe to be identical destinies. What convinces fans of both

if that had happened to me," Balfour said.

Fortunately Balfour's mother has been able to sleep soundly in Montclair.

Her son, though, has not been as lucky. "I heard he doesn't sleep at all," freshman midfielder Scott Elliot said. "He just waits for the next game."

If true, Balfour will be wide



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

players that the two have a special connection? One thing, for sure, is their nimble moves on the field.

"Robinho and Chand Balfour similar?" sophomore goalie Neil Maclean asked. "Well, with the ball at their feet, they're both swift like lightning. And if you don't think lightning is swift, then you haven't seen Chand Balfour."

If anyone did see play Balfour over the weekend, they would've noticed his crucial goal and assist against Washington College.

"It felt really good. It was like ... electrifying," he said. Thanks to his and freshman forward David Drake's points, the team was able to come home with a 2-1 win.

Though their last regular season game wasn't hosted at Homewood Field, Balfour fans were still present at the game. Mr. and Mrs. Balfour's passion for the game is just as strong as their son's (and Robinho's). They have yet to miss one of their son's college soccer games.

Also, Balfour's older brother, Carlyle, comes to watch often. Now a graduate student at Hopkins, the older Balfour recently graduated from Dickinson, where he played on the soccer team as well. "My family is really important to me," Balfour said.

Similarly, Robinho holds his family dear. Tragically, in 2004, his mother, Marina de Silva Souza, was kidnapped for ransom. "When Robinho's mother was kidnapped, I felt bad for him because I'm very close to my mother. I know I would go crazy

awake until Saturday, when the Jays take on Muhlenberg in the conference tournament. But Balfour, like Robinho, dreams big (that is, if he sleeps).

"I feel like we're going to win the national championship," Balfour said. And if Balfour's dreams mirror Robinho's, there's a good chance that this one will come true.

Balfour was lucky enough to sit in the stands himself as he cheered on Robinho in Brazil. The trip was one of many Balfour has taken to the country after attending a Brazilian soccer camp when

he was younger. Seeing Robinho for the first time was life-changing for Balfour.

"Robinho's a great player. There's just something about him."

Whether or not this "something" that both Balfour and Robinho posses was brought by destiny, no one can deny that both athletes have worked hard to get where they are today.

"You can't say anything about Chand Balfour without saying he goes hard all the time," sophomore defender Nathan Wysk said.

As for Robinho, Wysk continued, "Balfour loves him. He'll argue with you till the death that Robinho's the best player in the world."

"Robinho's the best player in the world," Balfour said.

I took Wysk's advice and didn't argue. After seeing Balfour, though, I can't help but think that maybe there's a tie for the title.

VITAL STATISTICS

Year: Sophomore
Major: History
Position: Forward

Hopkins Highlights:
Scored and assisted for both goals to defeat Washington.

Blue Jays soar past Juniata Eagles with 11-point victory

By MAX DWORIN
News-Letter Staff Writer

For a Hopkins football team that came into last weekend having played the second-hardest schedule in all of division III, Saturday's game against the winless Juniata Eagles was a much-needed reprieve from the team's weekly grind.

The Jays made the most of their game against the Eagles, scoring on their first three drives and running away to a 42-21 victory in Huntingdon, Penn. The win brings the Jays to 2-4 in the Centennial Conference and 3-5 overall for the season. It dropped Juniata to 0-8 in their first season as a member of the Centennial Conference.

Hopkins was propelled by sophomore running back Andrew Kase from the very first series, as the Jays handed the ball off to him on six of the eight plays in the first drive. Kase's 45 yards during Hopkins's first possession, including his 11-yard touchdown run, helped put the Jays up 7-0.

"We definitely wanted to establish the run right off the bat and get after it," Head Coach Jim Margraff said of the run-heavy offensive game plan.

The Jays' defense did not give Juniata any time to get back in

the game either, as Eagles quarterback Jay Leonard had his first pass of the game picked off at midfield by senior defensive back Dan Requena on the Eagles' second play from scrimmage. Requena returned the interception 43 yards to the Juniata eight-yard line, setting up another Andrew Kase score from eight yards out. Kase's score put the Jays up 14-0 less than halfway into the first quarter.

Kase would finish the game with 156 yards rushing and three touchdowns, two rushing and one receiving, to continue his stellar sophomore season.

"The offensive line got a good push off the ball," said freshman left guard Ryan Lino, who was making his first collegiate start. "And Andrew Kase is just that good of a running back."

After a brief three-and-out by the Eagles, Hopkins went at it on the ground again with another dose of Andrew Kase, who tacked on another 37 yards to his total during the series. Margraff's offense handed the ball off for eight of 11 plays and eventually put the ball in the end zone on a four yard pass from sophomore quarterback Michael Murray to freshman wide receiver Brian Hopkins.

"They were one of the smaller defensive lines we faced so we thought we'd be able to run the ball pretty well against them," Murray said. "We accomplished what we set out to do and we even managed to mix in a little bit of the pass."

The early 21-0 lead allowed Margraff to get a good look at freshman quarterback Max Islinger, who had been acting as the

team's punter. Islinger came in for Murray in the middle of the second quarter and completed a two-yard pass on his first attempt as a college quarterback.

"We treat the quarterback like any other position," Margraff said of the switch under center. "Mike's our starter, but we play more than one tailback so we're going to play more than one quarterback."

Islinger was forced to punt after his first possession but he would come back on his second drive to throw for a 46-yard touchdown pass to a fellow freshman, wide receiver Tucker Michels.

"I was really excited for Max [Islinger]," Murray declared, showing that he was not at all upset about being pulled. "It was great to see him get his first touchdown pass at the collegiate level."

"Max is a good quarterback," Lino said. "It's shown in practice and we didn't miss a beat when he came in."

Senior captain and wide receiver Corey Sattler also got his first career touchdown in the game. The touchdown came during the Jays' first possession of the second half on a 21-yard pass from Murray, who had re-entered at halftime.

"Everyone was really excited to see him get his first touchdown," said Murray, who finished with three touchdowns of his own. "It's a tribute to the type of receiver he is, a technical possession receiver, and he was so excited."

"I'm just glad to see him finally get in the end zone," Coach Margraff said of his captain.

"We would've found a way to get him in the end zone over the next couple of weeks anyway, but it's better that he did it naturally."

The confidence of a 42-21 victory and the way the offense was able to impose their will against the Eagles will definitely help the Jays as they head into their final two games of the season, including a Parents' Weekend showdown on Saturday against Franklin & Marshall



CONOR KEVIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Senior defensive back Dan Requena defends onlooking Jays.

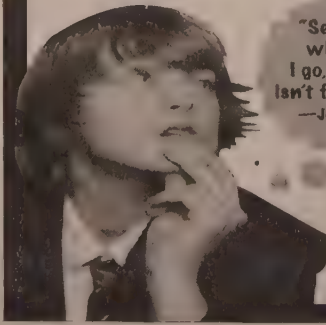
"A deeply funny chronicle of male adolescence."

—Entertainment Weekly

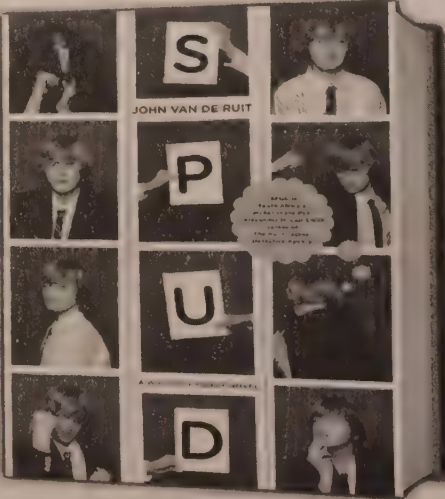
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—Alexander McCall Smith,
author of The No. 1 Ladies
Detective Agency



"Seems like
wherever
I go, madness
isn't far behind."
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SPORTS

CHECK THIS OUT!

After closing out Game 4 and winning the 2007 World Series, Red Sox pitcher Jonathon Papelbon does his ritual Irish jig in front of reporters and fans.
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Red+Sox&search=Search

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

Football vs. Franklin & Marshall 1 p.m.

W. Soccer vs. TBD 5 p.m.

Field Hockey blows out the Owls in 9-0 finale

By EILEEN LILLY
News-Letter Staff Writer

The regular season came to a close for the Hopkins field hockey team this weekend. The Lady Jays suffered their first conference game loss on Saturday to sixth-ranked Ursinus, but dominated the Bryn Mawr Owls in a 9-0 win to end the regular season.

In addition to ending the regular season, senior Lucy Webster was selected to play in the 2007 NFHCA Division III Senior All-Star Game. Webster is a defender for the Jays and has played in 49 games, including 36 starts. She boasts 11 points in her career at Hopkins, including five goals, two of which were scored this year, and one assist. She has also had two defensive saves this season.

The Jays' defeat of 5-1 was unexpected. Going into the game, Hopkins's conference record was 8-0 and Ursinus' record was 8-1. Ursinus' win over Hopkins gives them the first seed for the Centennial Conference Championships as well as home field advantage. The Jays fell to the number two spot.

The Ursinus Bears took an immediate lead with a quick goal scored just under the four-minute mark. Both teams went back and forth until once again the Bears managed to score. This time Ursinus converted off a penalty stroke, extending their lead



Junior midfielder Leah Horton sprints past a Bryn Mawr defender to pick up the loose ball. The Jays went 1-1 this weekend.

to 2-0. The Bears were not yet finished, and with only about two minutes left in the half, they increased their lead again by scoring their third goal to the high left side of the cage.

As the Jays returned after halftime, trailing 3-0, they started their offensive attack immediately. Sophomore Andrea Vandersall scored Hopkins' only goal

off junior Emily Miller's assist. Hopkins now trailed 3-1, but Ursinus did not allow the momentum to be swayed to Hopkins' advantage. Only 25 seconds after Vandersall's goal Ursinus scored their fourth goal of the game.

Both teams continued to battle but Hopkins was unable to overcome Ursinus' defense. Then, with seven minutes left

CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

in the game, Ursinus completed their victory by scoring their fifth goal. Seven minutes later, Hopkins lost their first conference game and their hopes of being the number one seed going into the Conference Championships with a final score of 5-1.

Sophomore goalie Sophia Tieu had six saves in the loss, while

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M. Soccer back on track with two-win regular season close

By MIKE YUAN
For The News-Letter

After a two-game losing streak — the longest in seven years — the Hopkins men's soccer team got right back on track during the last week of their regular season. Two wins left the Jays with an overall record of 15-3 (7-2 in the Centennial Conference) and an NCAA ranking of 20th.

The fans and alumni seemed discouraged and doubtful after the two losses prior to Wednesday's game, and members of the team sensed it. "It basically made us come together as a team and made us play for each other rather than for others," said senior forward and co-captain Ben McAbee.

Freshman forward Scott Bukoski used the losses as a base to learn and build from. "It got us prepared for the postseason because they were two really good teams," he said. "It woke us up and got us focused."

Hopkins battled Gettysburg at Homewood Field in the rain on Wednesday night to a 2-1 victory. The physical play mixed with the harsh conditions led to what McAbee called "an ugly win, but a win at that."

The game was scoreless until the 40th minute, when Bullets defenseman Ryan Shaffer scored on Hopkins' sophomore goalkeeper, Matt Mierley, who finished the game with two saves. Hopkins struck back in the 70th minute off of a penalty kick by freshman forward Scott Bukoski. Bukoski,

who finished the regular season second in the conference in both goals and assists, was awarded the kick after being pulled down by an opposing defender inside the box.

The game was tied until the 75th minute, when freshman forward David Drake beat his defender and opposing goalie Matt Langston to net his 12th goal of the season. With the win,

Hopkins clinched a spot in the Centennial Conference playoffs, earning a number two seed.

The Wednesday win snapped the two-game losing streak and gave the team confidence heading into their season finale against unranked Washington College on Saturday.

Even with playoff berth under their belts, the team played the final game with vitality. Their sentiments were summed up by Bukoski, who said, "If we lost, we would have eliminated any chance of getting an at large bid for the NCAA tournament. So we were still playing as hard as we could."

The Jays went on to beat Washington College 2-1 on the Shoremen's own turf. Hopkins' sophomore midfielder/forward Chand Balfour struck early with his seventh goal of the season, sneaking the ball past opposing senior goalie Marc Petrucci in the fifth minute of the game. However, the Jays were unable to stop Washington's senior midfielder Frank Borelli from scoring in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10

Into Thin Air: Hopkins' new skydiving club

By DEMIAN KENDALL
Sports Editor

The altimeter watch on my wrist ticks up to 11,000 feet. It's time to jump. I'm strapped to an experienced skydiving instructor whose jumps number over 5,000, yet my knees can't stop shaking as I look through clouds at the New Jersey landscape. On the count of three, I take a deep breath and step off the ledge, and I'm flying through open sky. There's nothing around me except open air for miles and I'm zipping toward the ground at about 120 miles per hour. The rush is indescribable. One has to experience it to understand it.

The free fall lasts for about a minute and then, at 5,000 feet, it's time to pull the ripcord and open the parachute for a gentle three-minute glide back to Earth. The view is incredible. I can see Philadelphia, Atlantic City, the ocean, the hills. My knees are still shaking — this time from sheer adrenaline.

Rod Boden, the leader of the unofficial Flying Blue Jays Skydiving Club, does this just about every weekend. Boden started skydiving in 2005 and his sunset dive on Sunday evening marked his 76th jump. He

earned his United States Parachute Association (USPA) Class B license this August, an accomplishment that allows him to make night jumps and also participate in collegiate competitions. But what's more impres-

sive than Boden's credentials is his passion and dedication to the sport.

"My vision for the Flying Blue Jays Skydiving Club is to help as many people make their first jump as possible and to find a group of jumpers who want to advance beyond tandem jumps, get licensed and explore everything this incredible sport has to offer. I would love to see

ing on where you jump. Not a lot of college students have that money to throw around."

The risk of skydiving has also created difficulties for Boden with the Hopkins administration, who refuses to support or legitimize the club because of high liability concern. However, Boden is currently working with the USPA and other college skydiving clubs to develop a plan

that will appease the risk-management office. "It has been done at a number of other universities and there are several ways to relieve Johns Hopkins of any liability," Boden said.

The inherent risk of the sport is also a factor when it comes to recruitment. Many prospective skydivers display common fears that the parachute won't open. To this, Boden replied, "Parachutes open. It is what they do. If your main parachute malfunctions, you've got a reserve. Skydivers are crazy, not suicidal!" In fact, most rigs and all student/tandem rigs contain a device which will automatically activate the

CONTINUED ON PAGE B11



Head of the skydiving club Rod Boden is all smiles after this September jump.

COURTESY OF RODNEY BODEN

INSIDE

Athlete of the Week: Chand Balfour

Sophomore midfielder Chand Balfour confesses his idolization of pro player, Robinho. However, these two stellar athletes may not be as different as you may think.

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Football: Jays topple Juniata

Andrew Kase spearheaded the Blue Jay football team as they blew past the Juniata squad this Saturday. After a rough start, is there playoff hope for the Jays?

Page B11

Around the League: Standings Section

This week brought the end of the regular season for most varsity sports. Check out the standings section to find out how the Blue Jays fared, and what awaits in the playoffs.

Page B10

W. Soccer gridlocks against Ursinus

The Lady Jays will host Conference Tournament following the grueling double-overtime tie

By KATIE MOODY
News-Letter Staff Writer

After it was postponed due to rain the day before, the game between the Hopkins women's soccer team and Ursinus College was a battle that resulted in a 0-0 tie in double overtime on Sunday, Oct. 28. With the tie, the Lady Jays (12-4-2, 8-1-1) ended their regular season at a high point. This tie secured a seven-game undefeated

streak, and the team will host the Centennial Conference Tournament at Homewood campus this weekend.

The first half of the game was somewhat slow and was mostly played at midfield. Neither team even pulled a shot off until the 21-minute mark. In the remaining 24 minutes, both teams did their best to start a shooting match and test each others defenses, when they both got four

shots off. The Jays headed into the locker room knowing they had to step it up a little bit on offense and keep the defensive momentum going if they wanted to keep their streak alive. It would depend which team could get more shots off goal, and the team that could do that would control the second half.

Soon after the Lady Jays took the field again, they held a commanding 8-0 advantage in shots. Freshman midfielder Erin Stafford had a golden opportunity to make the score 1-0 in favor of Hopkins, but she hit a shot off the crossbar, missing the net by inches. Stafford's attempt happened with just a little more than 24 minutes to go in the second half. The rest of the half would be scoreless on either side, as both teams' defenses stood out and didn't allow much outside midfield.

The game went into overtime, and Ursinus had a 1-0 shot-on-goal advantage, and in double overtime, the Bears once again had a one-shot advantage at 2-1, but neither Hopkins nor Ursinus could boot it into the net. The game was called a tie at 0-0, letting the Lady Jays keep their seven-game streak alive.

In terms of numbers, Hopkins held a 13-7 advantage in shots on goal for the game, while Ursinus had a 5-4 advantage in

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Freshman midfielder Erin Stafford fights off an Ursinus defender to gain possession.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

Best of Baltimore



Sponsored by 2007 Johns Hopkins family weekend



BEST OF BALTIMORE

Have a tall glass of charm

Baltimore has always been, at any given point in history, interesting. In the War of 1812, the British declared it a "nest of pirates." Almost a century later, after the Great Baltimore Fire destroyed 1500 buildings in 30 hours, the mayor refused assistance during rebuilding. He said, "Baltimore will take care of its own, thank you."

This is the Best of Baltimore edition of *The News-Letter*, for which intrepid editors and writers risk their lives by tasting Baltimore's hamburgers, trekking through Sherwood Gardens and exploring Homewood bathrooms. Luckily they have all survived to write about where you can find the best of everything, whether it be sandwiches, tulips or toilet paper.

Perhaps because careful studies have revealed "homework" to be the number one pastime of the Hopkins student body for 131 years straight, consider taking some time out on the weekends to explore our city. It's easy to learn a little bit about Baltimore's rich history and have a good time while you're here.

If you grow tired of dining hall food or simply want to try something different, check out one of the various nearby restaurants featured in the Dining section.

There's no need to take a bus anywhere if you'd like to spend a Saturday away from campus. Get some ideas from the Activities section, and take the opportunity to hang out at Federal Hill or wander through fresh vegetable stands at the Farmers Market in Waverly.

That's not to undermine the superlatives here at Homewood either; read the Best of Hopkins section to learn about everything from the best place to study to the best place to find parking.

So next time you want to put away those textbooks, find a map!

-Anum Azam
Special Editions Editor



MARK MEHLINGER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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COVER PHOTO BY LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR



DINING

XS brunch has flavor and flair

XS

1307 N. Charles St.
(410) 468-0002

By SARAH SABHSON

XS is one of those restaurants that you just can't seem to pin down. Is it a sushi place? A coffee shop? A late night bar scene? This multi-leveled spot is also the perfect brunch destination.

The menu offers a plethora of breakfast options including quiches, omelettes and Belgian waffles. Be sure to try the spinach, artichoke, roasted garlic and smoked Gouda quiche, the breakfast burrito, and the New York griddle cakes with cinnamon and vanilla mousse. To pair with entrées, XS also makes great espresso-based drinks. Although the variety doesn't compare with Starbucks, XS knows how to make a great cup of joe. For those non-caffeine addicts, there are numerous teas to choose from as well as fresh fruit smoothies.

The architecture of this locale is definitely worth mentioning. Each floor of the restaurant has something different to offer. The first floor is a takeout area with some outdoor dining, a coffee bar, a dessert case and a sushi bar. The second is the mezzanine level, perfect for a quick cup of coffee. The third floor offers most of the seating in XS along with a full bar, local artwork on display, a large television and the DJ station that gets going at 8 p.m. every night. The fourth floor is additional loft dining space.

For the perfect Sunday brunch atmosphere, the third floor is ideal. The large windows allow lots of morning sunshine to stream through which makes the minimalist furniture a lot more inviting.

Another perk to this great brunch place is its location. XS is only a block-and-a-half away from Penn Station, a JHMI shuttle stop. Although the shuttle only runs once an hour on Sundays, XS is open at 9 a.m.

Chipotle's burritos are the best ... and the biggest

Chipotle

3201 Saint Paul St.
(410) 662-1701

By BARBARA HA

If you want to find a big and tasty burrito, look no further, Hopkins students!

Behold Chipotle, the ultimate burrito eatery in town! Located on St. Paul Street, behind Charles Commons and two doors down from Starbucks, Chipotle is a fast-food style restaurant where you can grab food to go or eat and have a chill time with your friends over your meal. Basically, this is how it works. You enter the restaurant, tell them exactly what you would like in your burrito, taco or taco salad, and they combine it before your eyes behind the counter within minutes.

Whether it's for lunch or dinner, after you've grown sick of Fresh Food Café or other school cafeterias, make time to enter this friendly and social atmosphere to mingle while munching on a delicious, well-priced meal. All of their meat is antibiotic-free, and you can get vegetarian burritos, too.

The Chipotle on St. Paul Street opened less than a year ago. I have visited the place a dozen or more times, and every time I enjoy it even more than before. The staff is very friendly and service-oriented.

There is plenty of space in the restaurant to grab a table, and if there is no



JOHN PENDERGASS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Get your big, beefy, foil-wrapped burrito at the McDonald's owned Chipotle eatery on St. Paul Street.

space, you can eat outside and watch your fellow Baltimoreans live their lives on St. Paul St. So if you ask me where the best restaurant for Hopkins students to grab a

fantastic burrito is? Without a doubt, it's Chipotle. Its eclectic combination of relaxation, fun and talking draw its customers to return for more after every time.

Hot for someone but low on cash? Try this cheap date

By VANESSA SIMMONS

So you met a cute girl and want to run the bases, but that campus job paycheck already went to paying back your roommate. Now you need the cheapest date around.

No way are you taking a taxi downtown or tipping some waiter who keeps staring at your date's chest, no-way no-how. Instead, take the shuttle to Super-fresh and get a box of pasta and a jar of

sauce. You won't use all of the pasta or the whole jar of Ragu so it's not a real expenditure.

Tell the shuttle driver to drop you off at the library where you swipe that J-card for a decent comedy *gratis* (Latin for "cheap bastard") and take home your prize.

Call her for free if she's on your network, or invite her via AIM if she's not, and ask her to come over to watch a movie. If she seems hesitant, as if she knows what "watch a movie" means,

then throw in the dinner chip too. Now she thinks you really care. Pick up a free condom (flavored if she's into that) from the health center (or two if she seems like that kind of girl) and wait for her arrival.

If she's still giving off mixed signals, you may, as a last resort, run to the Deli and get a \$7 bottle of wine to ease the night along. The cheapest date is a movie from the library and sex, and the girls at Hopkins are the cheapest dates around.

Attman's serves up sandwiches old-school style

Attman's Delicatessen
1019 E. Lombard Road
(410) 563-2666

By CAROLYN PARK

Walk into Attman's Deli and you'll be greeted by an insanely long line of people all waiting for that "authentic New York deli" flavor, a taste which has earned Attman's the title of "Baltimore's Best Deli" for 19 years running.

It is a sentiment shared not only by the *Citypaper*, but also by the scores of regulars and newcomers who travel from as far as Georgia to satisfy the craving for hot, melt-in-your-mouth corned beef. Once you join the line, you're faced with an immense array of options — pastrami, roast beef, Kosher liverwurst (just to name a few) — and suddenly, you realize the line is moving a lot faster than you expected, thanks to the lightning-fast pace of the staff.

"You gotta order fast," chuckled a silver-haired man, who remembers the days back when Attman's was more a grocer than deli. Opened in 1915 by Harry Attman, the store sold not only sandwiches, but also a variety of meats and relishes, and even "barrels of salted herring" that stood outside the door. As recognition for their sandwiches grew, additional space (named the "Kibbitz" room) was added to serve customers seeking a sit-down dining experience, and eventually, Attman's became the celebrated deli it is known as today. Yet, despite over nine decades of service, reminders of the past persist: Enormous jars of tomatoes, sweet pickles and hot cherry-red peppers guard the see-through cases of homemade salads and desserts, along with meat that is still sold by the pound — everything from smoked salmon to roast brisket.

But ask anyone in line what keeps bringing them back to this Baltimore landmark, and you'll get the same answer. "Hands down, the best sandwich place in town," said Lori, a 15-year customer ever since she and her husband moved to the city. "You just can't go wrong with the corned beef," she said, adding that while her coworkers enjoy the "Cloak & Dagger" sandwich (corned beef, coleslaw, Russian dressing), her husband prefers the Reuben (Jewish corned beef, sauerkraut, melted Swiss, Russian dressing). Which one tastes better? Come find out for yourself and become a part of this beloved establishment, where delicious corned beef is served seven days a week.

Five Guys Burgers and Fries is a pleasant surprise

Five Guys Famous Burgers and Fries
201 E. Pratt St.
(410) 244-7175

By DEMIAN KENDALL

No trip to the Inner Harbor is complete without a stop at Five Guys Famous Burgers and Fries. This Zagat-rated burger chain overlooks the harbor and offers both indoor and outdoor seating if the weather is nice. The interior of the restaurant represents a 1950's-style diner, plush with red leather booths and barstools and checkerboard tabletops. Service is quick and prices won't put a dent in your wallet. A burger, fries and drink is about \$6, but the taste is priceless.

Five Guys is serious about the burger thing. Their Web site proclaims its mission in this way: "We are in the business of selling burgers."

Thick, half-pound patties slathered with melted American cheese and all the toppings that can fit between two buns for no extra charge. Ice-cold 24-ounce sodas with free refills.

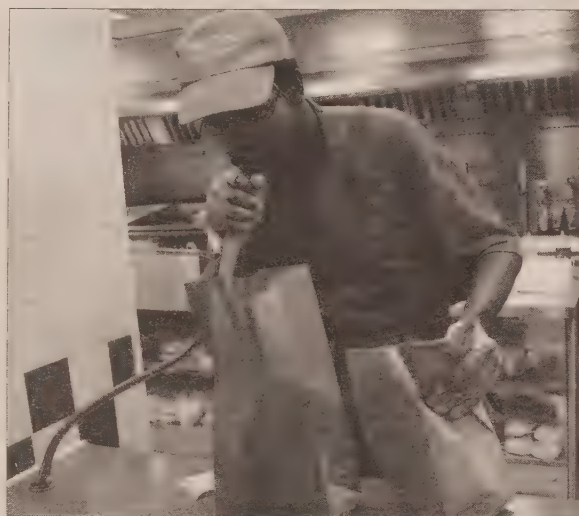
Mounds of golden-brown traditional or Cajun-style fries. What else could you possibly want? Five Guys has earned the "#1 Burger" distinction from *Washington Magazine* for seven years in a row. The

Five Guys the "Willy Wonka's of Burgercraft." Well, if there's a cheeseburger river out there somewhere, it would be a river in which I'd be glad to drown.

For those with smaller appetites, Five Guys also serves sliders, little bite-sized burgers. Though I've never been able to resist the temptation of the colossal half-pounder, Five Guys' sliders are also good for a light, quick lunch.

You may notice, as you walk into the restaurant, an occasional crunching noise under your footsteps. Welcome to my favorite part about the restaurant. Five Guys serves all-you-can-eat free peanuts by the bucket. As long as you don't make a total mess, you can go through as many buckets as you please or that your stomach has room for (after a Five Guys burger, there won't be much). Be sure to fill up your pockets, purses, backpacks and duffel bags with as many peanuts as you can before you leave.

Though it sits somewhat under the shadow of the larger, higher-end Harbor restaurants such as Houlihan's, Five Guys is the perfect combination of delicious food and low prices, which should be enough to make any hungry college student drool.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Five Guys makes the juiciest, cheesiest, most delicious burger in Baltimore.

franchise has also received "Best Burger" and "Best Fries" titles from several other publications. The *Washington Post* called

Dominion's eclectic flavors dominate the ice cream scene

Dominion Ice Cream
3120 Saint Paul St.
(410) 243-2644

By ANUM AZAM

Spinach ice cream might sound oxymoronic to the eater of ordinary ice cream. Generally if it tastes good, it's bad for you. At Dominion Ice Cream, right across the street from Uni Mini, the ice cream is still probably bad for you, but not nearly as bad as its neighbor, Coldstone, and definitely better tasting.

In fact, the door of the small establishment proclaims the business's motto: "Tastes Good and Good for You." Well, who knows? Maybe it is good for you.

Dominion specializes in vegetable-flavored ice cream. Gross, you say. Vegetables are for segregating into piles on your plate, not for mixing into ice cream.

This is not true, because Dominion's ice cream tastes clean, fresh and delicious. Owner Donna Calloway won't reveal her secrets, but whatever she does is working, and it does involve pounding vegetables into a pulp and putting them

in ice cream.

It's easy to acquire ice cream of the spinach, sweet potato, pumpkin or jalapeno variety at Dominion — and if you find yourself a bit hesitant, Calloway will allay your fears by offering you a taste of whatever you are unsure about. Though Dominion also has normal flavors such as French vanilla, butter pecan, German chocolate and cotton candy, their most popular ice cream is the spinach flavor, according to Calloway.

"It doesn't taste like spinach. It tastes like vanilla, but very clean," she said.

If you're feeling crazy, try the jalapeno — the ice cream doesn't taste like the peppers, but wait a few seconds and you can feel it up your nose.

However, pumpkin-flavored is the real winner. Eating this ice cream includes visions of the vibrantly orange vegetables in a field of green vines with nothing to do but grow on a brisk autumn day, absolutely pulsing with life and waiting to be picked, smashed and made into ice cream.

Other vegetable options include tomato and carrot ice cream.

It's been a year and two months since

Calloway began selling ice cream in the small store that's easy to miss unless you have to pick up a big pile of laundry from the laundromat next door or you know where it is already. Dominion still sells some of the flavors that Gaga's, the old ice cream store that Calloway bought, did.

Calloway makes some of the ice cream on site. And if you're just not into ice cream, try a milkshake.

But it's hard not to be into ice cream walking into Dominion and seeing the chalkboard menu, the two double-rows of ice cream arranged perpendicular to each other, and the smiling owner standing behind the counter, asking if you'd like to try the latest frozen vegetable concoction.

The vegetable varieties are arranged on the left-most side of the room, and the more traditional flavors are on the right.

Though the prices are in the middling range rather than very low, Dominion is worth at least a taste, or many tastes, for the freshness it brings to the city. So if you're in the mood for some ice cream, this is the place to go.

Papermoon is delicious, 24 hours a day

Papermoon Diner

227 W. 29th St.
(410) 889-4444

By DANA COVIT

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and located within relative walking distance from campus, Papermoon Diner is the perfect late-night locale (and other times too — it's just plain good). But really, whether it's Oreo cheesecake, eggs and homefries, quesadillas or sandwiches you crave, Papermoon can deliver a great, urge-satisfying meal.

The Papermoon Diner always rocks breakfast and serves it all the same whether at 8 a.m. or 2 a.m. — French toast made from challah bread and omelettes crammed full with interesting and complimentary ingredients. Vegetarians will also find numerous dishes on the lengthy menu.

However what sets Papermoon apart is not the food, *per se*; rather, it is the unbelievable ambience that the Papermoon crew has crafted. The small place, which was probably once a house of some sort, is creatively divided into three sections: The middle — the most traditional area, with a diner-style counter and swivel top seats; the back room — adorned with orange and lime green walls and Keith Haring-inspired paintings; and the front room — its walls littered with an array of items you might dig up in your basement's storage room (or perhaps in the bedroom of Sid from *Toy Story*).

A collection of Pez dispensers, old records, dolls with and without arms and G.I. Joe figures hanging from helicopters, Papermoon is a sort of otherworldly delight.

Stepping in feels as if you are entering the screwy, nostalgic brain of a child — or perhaps a dream world of infinite nuttiness and possibility. The walls themselves have enough eye candy to stare at for the length of a whole meal, and each time you dine there, it is likely that you will discover another knick-knack tucked away in a corner.

An undeniable local favorite, if you are planning to dine midday with a party of more than five, a reservation may be smartest; however, late-night trips will ensure a table right away. Though service tends to be rather slow (the waiters seem too laid-back to accept the rigid table-assignment format and pick up the loose ends of tables as they go — thus, there is no main waiter who will serve you during your meal), there is assuredly enough on the walls to keep you occupied while you wait for those late-night munchies.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Get your late night munchies taken care of with Papermoon's all-night food-fest and eclectic décor.

Let your parents treat you to a movie and Tapas Teatro

Tapas Teatro

1711 N. Charles St.
(410) 332-1229

By DANA COVIT

Tapas Teatro, a mere five-minute cab-ride away from Homewood campus, is — for lack of a better term — the full package. It is trendy and tasty, and its location can't be beat. The restaurant embodies industrial chic, with its exposed-brick walls and metal accents. On a nice day, you can easily walk there.

Situated conveniently next to the Charles Theater, Tapas Teatro is the perfect evening starter, its menu full of traditional-style tapas and dishes with a little more kick. The small entrées that are customary to tapas restaurants in Spain have been expanded to create a selection of international flavors and interesting dishes from around the world. That being said, some of the strongest dishes at Tapas Teatro include those with a Mediterranean sway; however, that does not detract from the rest of the menu. Without a doubt, there is something to fit every diner's fancy.

Set amidst an atmosphere that is upscale and undeniably swanky, yet not at

all stuffy, Tapas Teatro is fast-paced but still intimate. In this way, Tapas Teatro is the perfect go-to restaurant. It won't take forever to get your food, and it's never overflowing with people yet still always buzzing. The balance between the laid-back and the high-class is just right — no matter if you are accompanied by friends, parents or a lover.

What's the best way to enjoy your trip to Tapas Teatro? Order several dishes, a few starters and a few entrées, and pick and choose to your heart's desire. Usually, for four people, 10 dishes total will suffice. If you ever want more, your server will gladly make suggestions and put in an order for whatever it is you may want next. The overall climate here is very fluid — it is clear that Tapas Teatro has struck the right chord in harmonizing casual yet chic dining.

Save room for dessert; as many of the meal-closers are worth a taste too. The atmosphere of the restaurant will essentially do the rest — you never have to worry about off-times, as there are almost always people dining inside, starting their night before heading to a movie just next door. But leave yourself plenty of time to enjoy Tapas Teatro — it will be surprisingly easy to get wrapped up in your meal.

One World does veggie fare right

One World Café

100 W. University Parkway
(410) 235-5777

By NATASHA BHUTANI

"Of course there are good restaurants here. Baltimore has some of the best crab-cakes in the country." My stomach filled with dread at the tour guide's words, which were clearly code for, "There is no way to find tasty vegetarian food here. You'll probably die of malnutrition within a month if you don't eat seafood or meat."

There are a lot of places in the world that are so concentrated with meat-eaters that they all forget about vegetarians, or that vegetarians eat vegetable matter, or that chicken is not vegetable matter. I thought that Baltimore was probably a place like that.

Luckily for me, I was wrong. One World Café and their half-price quesadillas on Tuesday nights saved me. One World Café is a vegetarian restaurant on West University Parkway, just across the street from Homewood Field. As soon as you push open the door, the smell of their organically-grown, fair-trade coffee hits you, which is enough to put any Hopkins student at ease, vegetarian or not.

The small tables and decorative pillows make the small restaurant feel almost like an Ethiopian restaurant. The surprises don't stop there. The food is hardly what you would expect from a vegetarian restaurant. The entrées are made from organic local ingredients and range from jambalaya to real Baltimore "crabcakes" (without the crab). There are even smoked salmon sandwiches and tuna melts for the seafood-lovers. And since they take J-Cash, there's absolutely no excuse not to try Baltimore's best vegetarian restaurant, One World Café.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Find the best vegan dishes at One World Café.

Go to The Ottobar for great evening entertainment

The Ottobar

227 W. 29th St.
(410) 889-4444

By MAX McKENNA

What could "Ottobar" mean?

Is it a bar for otters? No, that doesn't make sense. Besides, its logo is a cat with a martini.

Is it run by a dude named Otto? I guess that would make it Otto's Bar.

Is it a humorous misspelling of Auto-bar? Is that even humorous?

Unlike Baltimore's other venues for bands of modest popularity — Sonar and the Talking Head — the Ottobar doesn't have a name related to music, or anything for that matter. Sure, the word "bar" is in there, and there's a bar inside. But the Ottobar is essentially a place to see music, and the best of its kind in Baltimore.

Housed in a nondescript, black-painted-brick building, with one of those big doors that has a viewing-slit for bouncers, the Ottobar looks more like a speakeasy than a venue for hip rock bands.

Unlike Rams Head Live!, with its faux post-industrial interior, the Ottobar is a genuine dilapidated dive. The inside is black and boxy, the tiny stage looks like a

couple conjoined crates, and there's an ineradicable musk of sweat and cigarettes. The place has serious attitude: Kids smoke under no-smoking signs, artists come out of the "dressing room" to mingle with the crowd and security is provided by a pair of 400-pound teddy bears.

The reason the Ottobar is the best venue in Baltimore is not that it's dubious and dingy, but that it's incredibly intimate. Any hardcore music fan knows that you don't go to shows just to hear music. You go to connect with your favorite bands, to occupy the same space with them if only for a couple of hours.

At the Ottobar, which gets a lot of serious independent acts, you are never more than thirty feet from the stage, if you stick to the main floor. The place is so small and so tight you can't help but feel directly involved in the show, like people would notice something was missing if you hadn't shown up. You can really help fill up the room there, add something to the experience, whereas massive stadiums are more impersonal, more for spectators content with being spectators.

An added bonus: the Ottobar is like seven blocks from campus. And it's really close to the Papermoon, for post-show dining.

The Wizard of Ozzy: Beer!

The Brewer's Art

1106 N. Charles St.
(410) 547-6925

By ALEX BEGLEY

Baltimore has one legendary name in beer: Natty Boh. From 1885 to 1973 the National Brewing Company produced what some describe as "tasteless, watery" ale. Nevertheless, the beer is loved, and though it is now produced in North Carolina, Mr. Boh's winking face still watches over Baltimore from its spot above the old brewery.

Baltimore's new best beer doesn't come in a can or a bottle. It doesn't have a cheeky logo. Instead it's served in a Mt. Vernon basement and it's supposedly named for rock and roll's "Dark Prince." Ozzy is just one of Brewer's Art's house beers and in the *News-Letter's* opinion, it's the best. As the bar's heaviest hitting brew, clocking in at a hefty 7.25 percent alcohol by volume (compared to Boh's 4.28 abv), Ozzy never fails to get you drunk and does so very quickly.

Just one glass of this delicious Belgian ale gets this writer so tipsy that it's all she needs to drink for about two hours. Talk about a cheap date! Ozzy, served from a tap at one of Brewer's two bars (the upstairs for the more sedate crowd and downstairs for the younger, louder bunch), is pale and light, a perfect blonde

with little head. It has a citrus smell that makes many compare it to the more commercial beer Blue Moon. But in our opinion, Ozzy defies comparison as the best ale in town. Brewer's Art also offers two other beers that it brews itself: Resurrection and Proletary Ale. Resurrection is made with five types of barley malts and is sweet, but not too sweet. Proletary is the darkest of the three and is very hoppy.

However, the Ozzy is always a crowd pleaser and the high alcohol content is an added perk.



ALEX BEGLEY/MANAGING EDITOR
Ozzy is the Brewer's Art version of a Belgian beer.

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ACTIVITIES

For a classy movie night try the Senator

The Senator Theater
5904 York Road
(410) 435-8338

By DYLAN DIGGS

The Senator is the perfect theater if you want to get away from the modern urbanite Baltimorean scene and experience something that can be simplified to one word: class.

The Senator is simply regal as it harkens back to another age when people used to dress up with ties, jackets and even top hats to go the theaters. Today few do so when going there, but it still maintains its sense of nostalgia. The Senator, though it only has one massive theater, shows an assortment of theaters, but usually those that are big or significant in some way (*Michael Clayton*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *Star Wars*, and *Harry Potter* for example).

The Senator does not shy away from showing smaller movies, and they have a tradition of showing older ones. *Blade Runner: The Final Cut*, is playing on Oct. 26, for example, and on Nov. 3, the Senator will celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Rodan*, which was basically *Godzilla* with wings, but awesome in its own way. In the 1990s, the Senator showed the remastered versions of the original *Star Wars* trilogy.

Normal tickets are relatively cheap, but if you are willing to shell out the big bucks, you can get one of the two sky boxes in the mezzanine, which, much like at a baseball stadium, is a lavish room where you can sit back with a bunch of friends and check out the big screen from tall heights. The sky boxes hold up to 40 people and cost \$134.

The Senator offers a rich history, cheap prices (generally \$9) and simply a pleasant movie-going experience for most movie buffs. The theater is an important element of Baltimore, something that has been here through generations.

Looking for a new area to explore? Try Hampden

By LIZ SCHWARTZBERG

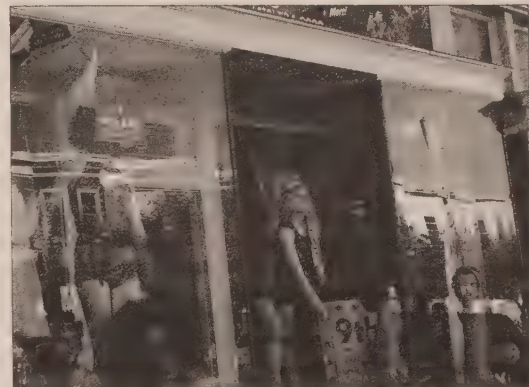
Hampden, one of Baltimore's most eclectic neighborhoods, is located just west of campus. Its plethora of restaurants and shops make it an ideal weekend destination, yet Hampden remains overlooked by many a Hopkins student.

The Avenue — also known as 36th Street — is the main drag of Hampden and where much of its activity can be found. It's where you can find shops that are a world away from those in Charles Village. Atomic Books is a popular independent bookstore in the neighborhood with a quirky, diverse selection of books, magazines and gifts. Ma Petite Shoe is a great place to pick up a trendy pair of shoes and a few decadent pieces of chocolate. Sugar is a new sex shop on The Avenue that opened in March. For beautiful and unusual imported furniture and antiques, head to Red Tree and browse their showroom. Kiss 'N' Make-up is a skincare and cosmetics store on The Avenue that offers manicures, pedicures, waxing and affordable designer makeup. And if you're looking for a massive selection of wine and cheese, Wine Source has everything you could ever want.

Hampden also has many restaurants located on and near The Avenue. Soup's On is a small café that sells delicious and perfectly-portioned soups, including summer vegetable soups and turkey chili soups in the winter. They're also known for their homemade chicken pot pies and decadent cupcakes. Angelo's, renowned for making enormous, gooey slices of pizza, is considered to have some of the best slices in Charm City. Café Hon has a classic American restaurant vibe but with all the "hon" kitsch and high prices that come with being a Baltimore tourist trap. Holy Frijoles has reasonably priced Mexican food with a great selection of vegetarian dishes. Golden West Café is also known for its vegetarian options but serves American and Tex-Mex food. Head there for brunch to try out their pancakes, which

are rumored to be fantastic. And the star of the Hampden bar scene is without a doubt Frazier's On The Avenue, a dive-y bar that frequently has live music.

There's more to Hampden than just bars, restaurants and shops. Hampden has two major street festivals every year: Hampdenfest in the fall and Honfest in the spring. But there's only so much you can learn about Hampden from reading about it. The best way to understand this quirky neighborhood and its residents is to make the short trek and experience it for yourself.

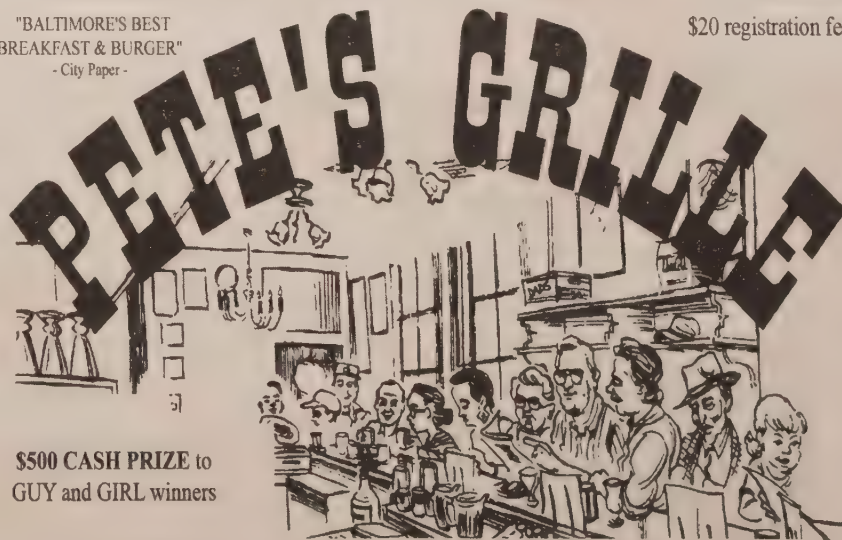


ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT

If you're bored with Charles Village's shops, restaurants and bars, it's time to venture into the fun and fabulous Hampden.

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Druid Hill Park

Best Late Night:

83 Paper Moon Remington

Best Concert Venue: Ottobar N. Howard

Oriole Park at Camden Yards

Pratt St.

Lombard St.

Lexington Market

Best Brunch: XS



Mt. Royal Ave.

Penn Station

North Ave.

25th St.

S. Charles St.

N. Charles St.

Washington Monument

St. Paul St.

N. Calvert St.

Central Ave.

Broadway

Best Deli:

Attman's

Fell's Point/Canton/Brewer's Hill/Greektown

Patterson Park

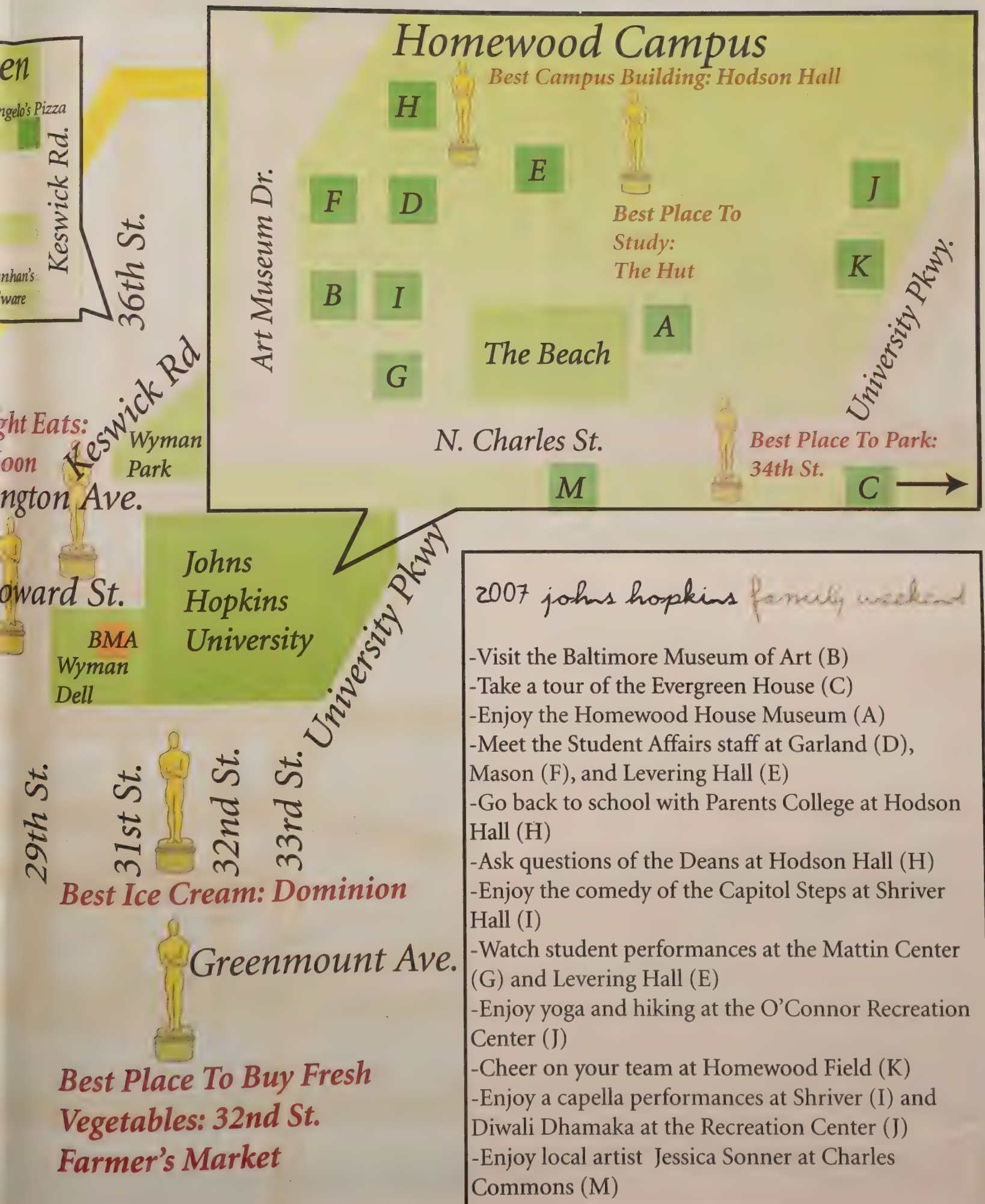
Inner Harbor

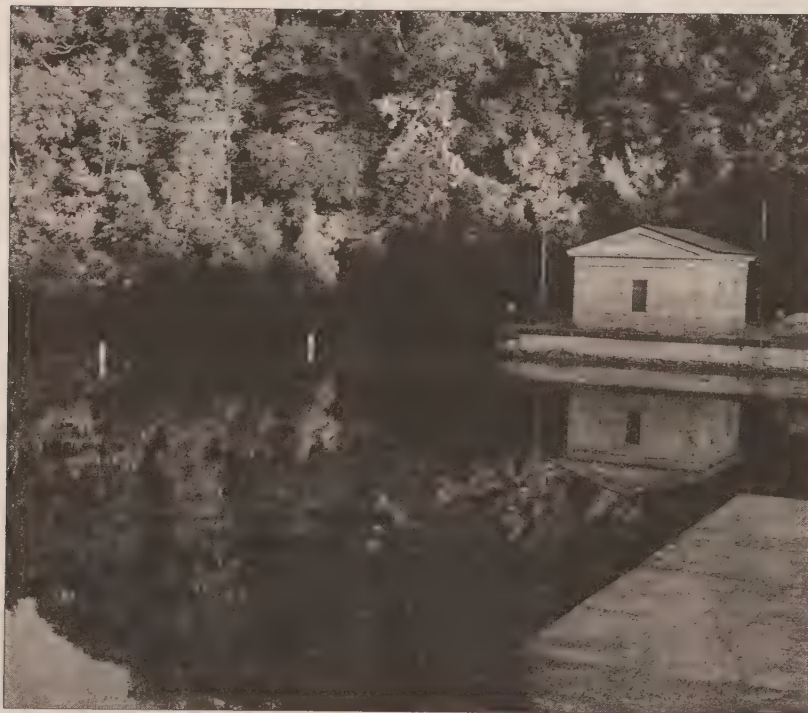
Best Burger: Five Guys

Little Italy

Eastern Ave.

Federal Hill Light St.





CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The hiking and biking trails of Lake Roland offer spectacular views from different spots around the lake.

Lake Roland: A tranquil, scenic place to spend a Saturday afternoon

Lake Roland

Falls Road at Lakeside Drive
(410) 396-7931

By MATT HANSEN

Full-time surfer and part-time writer Brad Melekian recently wrote a story for a magazine concerning his favorite surf spots. In it, he had a simple mantra for his fellow wave riders: "Keep your mouth shut."

For Melekian and many others, the joy of being outside is often found in isolation, a state all too rare in our natural places. Instead, what Melekian finds are tourists crowding his Fijian breaks, or champagne and lobster tail dinners on his trademark beach. His solution is to simply shut up about his newest finds and hope that the slow creep of rumor stays clear.

To a large extent, asking some Baltimoreans about their favorite park — if they visit any — would probably elicit a similar reaction. One of the unacknowledged joys of Baltimore's 5,700 acres of parks is that, despite its huge swaths given up to green spaces (just glance at a map and try to find a quadrant of the city without a park), on any given day you're unlikely to find more than a handful of citizens actually in them.

Many of the bikers who ply the quiet lanes of the Gwynns Falls Trail past the historic Crimea Estate and into one of the largest urban forests in America certainly prefer the solitude of their rides, while just as many who rely on Druid Hill's lightly used tennis courts for their morning games would likewise toss aside their rackets upon finding their favorite spots occupied by hordes.

So to anoint a "Best Park" brings with it the pressure of revealing a favorite to the masses, who would bring blankets and cameras.

Yet Lake Roland, my offering, is hardly everyone's best, so I'm not worried. Indeed, tucked away as it is past Northern Parkway and barricaded behind a former city reservoir and a series of high voltage (and very active) light rail tracks, the lake requires a certain amount of effort to delve into that some of its more centrally located urban cousins do not.

Likewise, the unpaved, woods-encroached paths that cut through the lakefront make tough crossing for weak ankles. What is left are forest trails, endless tongue-wagging dogs and a collection of runners, bikers and joggers who have gathered at the edge of Baltimore City where, with a certain modicum of sweat and effort, they take advantage of yet another of Baltimore's charmingly quiet parks.

The smorgasbord on 32nd Street

32nd Street Farmers Market

400 E. 32nd St.
(410) 889-4347

By HAOXIN SUN

It does not take a brain surgeon to figure out that the best place to buy fresh produce is the farmers market. With tomatoes of every shade of red and pumpkins of all shape and sizes, this charmingly eclectic marketplace lights up the usually vacant parking lot on Barley and 33rd St. every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

On any other day, walking up 33rd St. might not be the ideal pastime; however this is not the case on Saturdays mornings while untainted morning air still lingers. The trip to the farmers market is always relaxing, and as you and your buddies quietly walk pass the last red-brick house approaching the marketplace, you can begin to hear the booming liveliness.

When you go to the farmers market, think fruit. Situated at the center of the market, the stand run by Reid's Orchard from Buchanan Valley, Penn. has the largest selection of apples and pears. From Winsap to Spartan for apples and Red Bartlett to Shinseiki for pears, there are more of these fruits than you could ever ask for, and best of all, for \$1.49 per pound, you can mix and buy any combinations. And there's more: They also sell cider. Besides the regular apple cider, they also have delicious pear cider and apple/grape cider for \$5 per gallon.

The 32nd Street Farmers Market is a nonprofit, year-round organization. Its membership includes vendors from all over the Mid-Atlantic who set up tents every week under which they sell much more than fruit. The smell of fresh bread lingers in the air, and the greens, reds and yellows of fruits and vegetables is compounded by the flower vendors, who you can visit and buy beautiful flowers from for low prices to bring spring into your room, well into November.

If you walk a little ways into the heart of the market, you'll see even more variety, including mushroom vendors, whose table of weird fungus wares (and a useful booklet on how to use each type when cooking) is available for your perusal each week.

The bean vendors are also an interesting sight, with their large blue tent and seemingly endlessly deep boxes set up under it from which they scoop out whatever kind of bean you can think of.

Situated in close proximity is the roasted nuts stand with unthinkable options for types of nuts for a sweet and crunchy treat. They're probably not as healthy as you hope they are, though.

Fresh, cold milk in bottles and homemade cheeses are also available at the farmers market with a little poking around.

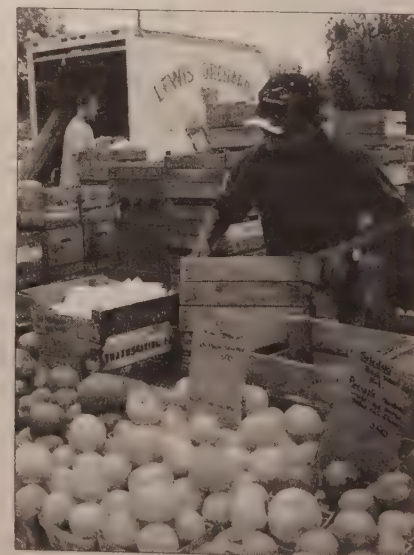
And if you don't feel like eating anything you recognize or are in the mood to do some cooking, there are even vendors with foreign foods, original teas and recommended spice mixes.

Vendors span all categories, including baked goods, produce, prepared foods, orchards, flowers and other specialty goods.

Interestingly, the entire liberal population of the area seems to congregate at the farmers market each Saturday morning, from families to college students and from adults to seniors. Everyone is friendly and shares your political views, given that yours make any kind of sense. You still may want to watch out though, because this is the only place you could potentially get recruited for the Revolutionary Communist Party. They sell their newspapers there on Saturday mornings.

For those who enjoy the great autumn and all things that come with the season, the farmers market also has pumpkins that are ideal for any Halloween and Thanksgiving decorations. And speaking of pumpkins, did I mention pumpkin butter? Don't let the name fool you; it is not butter. The texture resembles applesauce, but it is pumpkin pulp mixed with the perfect blend of sugar and spice. It is pretty much the essence of autumn in a jar.

The farmers market is great for a change of pace, so at the end of next stressed-out week, take a relaxing stroll down 33rd St., visit the farmers market and pick out some fresh apples and pumpkin butter. After all, you know what they say: An apple a day keeps the doctor away.



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT
Waverly hosts the weekly farmers market on Saturdays. It's a great place to buy fresh vegetables.



CONOR KEVTT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The walk to the tulip garden is both peaceful and beautiful—two things not often found in Baltimore.

Try a walk in the tulips for a taste of something different

By SAMMY ROSE SALTZMAN

Chances are you've had enough of the Bloomberg-Hodson trail. If you're looking for a new route to explore: Head north on Greenway and just keep going. When you hit Stratford Road you will be greeted by a quaint garden of cut grass and colorful tulips. You will be taken aback and will wonder for a second if you are in Baltimore anymore, let alone Charles Village.

At this point, your walk can become much less linear; just meander around the garden. Sprawl out. Enjoy the scenery. Enjoy the greenery. Bring a book, a blanket, a picnic basket, or better yet, a pair of eyes you could stare into all afternoon.

Once you've had your fill of the garden's charms, walk up Stratford and turn left on Underwood Road — you'll continue through the neighborhood, eventually hitting East Old Cold Spring Lane. Make a left and it's a straight shot to the Guilford Reservoir.

You can make a left on Reservoir Lane to tour the east and south sides of the man-made lake. It's not quite the verdant beauty of the tulip garden, but still a sight in itself. Once you hit Millbrook Road take another left. A block later make a left onto Greenway and you're on your way home.

Not a bad Saturday afternoon: Two north Baltimore landmarks and a stroll through some beautiful neighborhoods. Gather your posse and made a day of it. Between early April and May is your best bet to see the tulips in full bloom.

Get your shopping fix at Double Dutch Boutique in Hampden

Double Dutch
3616 Falls Road
(410) 554-0055

By SARAH SABHSON

On an excursion into Hampden one Sunday, I happened to find myself at the end of Main Street, in undiscovered territory. Up ahead, like a beacon, I saw an eggshell blue sign for a small boutique called Double Dutch. Featuring "modern lines and indie designs," Double Dutch has a whimsical feel to its clothing and accessories that dance along the line between sophisticated and quirky. This store sells everything from office-appropriate suits to party dresses to jeans, and everything in between. The owners of Double Dutch bring in well-known designers like Zinc, Kenzie Girl and American Apparel, while also giving local talent, like Gusto of Baltimore, a chance to display their pieces.

Double Dutch is also a great place to buy a unique birthday gift. Eclectic of-

ferings like jewelry, purses, scarves, books, sunglasses, cards, picture frames and more provide great ideas for your friend's birthday. And don't worry about prices, although some pieces are definitely a little more expensive, Double Dutch is pretty affordable on the college budget — OK, maybe just skip that triple venti latte.

Unfortunately for the guys, this store only has women's apparel, but Double Dutch has a warm atmosphere with some cozy seating from which to watch your girlfriend try on her clothing.

In an effort to be more than just a clothing store, Double Dutch does a monthly "Shopper's Social" where on one Friday of every month, they have hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, a DJ and 10 percent off everything in the whole store.

Double Dutch has nailed the cool-art-sy-pretty look that is highly desired but hard to find by most college women. The store is open seven days a week so take advantage of the opportunity because it is only a 15-minute walk from campus. Definitely check them out.

The best way to spend a Saturday in pretty Charm City

By ALEX BEGLEY

For the college student, Saturdays are like holy days. It means no classes and you can still get away with putting off your homework for one more day. During the spring, summer and fall Baltimore has no shortage of beautiful days complete with cloudless, Carolina-blue skies and warm weather.

On days like those, the absolute best thing to do is wake up somewhere around 10 a.m. and hit up the farmers market on 32nd Street for some delicious chocolate milk. Then you have to dine at one of the great breakfast places that are scattered across the city (Pete's and Two Sisters' for the homebodies, City Café and Blue Moon Café for the more adventurous, and Bel-Loc diner for the really adventurous). My personal pick would be City Café just because I'm a sucker for a good sausage and egg sandwich, and theirs comes on ciabatta bread and it's flippin' huge.

From there it's best to walk, ride or drive, if you must, over to Federal Hill. Fort McHenry is a picturesque park at the edge of the city. Situated at the mouth of the Inner Harbor, the fort has both defended and attacked the city in its years of operation. It's open seven days a week for almost ev-

ery week of the year. The fort itself is small and offers a brief historical tour. Skip the tour and design your own walk-through. After exploring the fort and straddling the cannons for a good photo op, sunbathing on the fort's lawn for a few hours and tossing the Frisbee around is the absolute best way to wind down. The lawn overlooks the harbor, and even though the water is usually littered with shoes, bottles, empty beer cans and other trash, watching the yachts and other boats zip around the huge cargo

ships can be a lot of fun.

On the way home after a day of sunning and Frisbee-ing at Fort McHenry, you can hop the water taxi to Fells Point. It's eight dollars for the trip across the harbor and if timed correctly, it is a great way to see the sunset. In Fells Point, shop and eat dinner at some sort of regional restaurant (Mediterranean tapas, Irish fare, Italian desserts). After that you can head home to prepare for the evening festivities of Charles Village.



ALEX BEGLEY/MANAGING EDITOR

Spending Saturdays at Fort McHenry is always surprising, especially during civil war reenactments.

BEST OF HOPKINS

Best athlete at Hopkins: Senior midfielder Paul Rabil

Paul Rabil
Senior lacrosse player

By DEMIAN KENDALL

In his last season as a Blue Jay, senior midfielder Paul Rabil is looking to add on to an already intimidating lacrosse career. Since his freshman year, Rabil has played in every single Hopkins lacrosse game, making him one of Pietramala's most valuable assets.

But Rabil has done more than just show up. Each time he steps onto the field he is a dominant threat, and whenever the ball is in his stick, goalies tremble in fear.

Rabil's trophy case at home must

be ready to burst open. Rabil is a two-time First Team USILA All-American and a Third Team *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-American. In last year's championship season, he earned the coveted McLaughlin Award as the top midfielder in the nation and was a finalist for the Tewaaraton Trophy, which is the lacrosse equivalent of the Heisman in football.

Since his freshman year, Rabil has been a statistical monster. In the 2007 season, he recorded 53 points with 27 goals and 26 assists. Rabil boasts an impressive career total of 75 goals and 53 assists, the current team high, and it doesn't look like anyone is going to surpass him anytime this season.

At face value, Rabil's statistics are more

than impressive—they're amazing. However, when taken in the context of individual games, Rabil is legendary. His performance in high-pressure situations is no different than any other situation. It may even be better. Rabil recorded four game-winning goals in the 2007 season. His first game-winner came against Princeton in the monumental Inside Lacrosse Face-Off Classic at M&T Bank Stadium. When his overtime shot struck nylon, the stadium erupted.

However, Rabil's most crucial game-winning goal came later, at the University of Maryland. Hopkins was coming off of a three-game slump against Virginia, North Carolina and Duke, and things were looking dismal for the Jays. However, when the lacrosse team suited up against their cross-town rivals, the Terrapins, the season was about to turn

around. Through the mud and rain, the Jays fought to overtime and once again, Rabil came through.

Rabil's game-winner against the Terps marked a distinct point in the Jays' championship season. The win against Maryland became the first in an uninterrupted streak of victories leading to the win over Duke for the National Championship.

Paul Rabil is back to Baltimore for his final collegiate lacrosse season. Rabil was named team captain in early October, along with teammates Stephen Peyser, Eric Zerlaut and Michael Doneger, and his eyes are set on nothing less than another National Championship. There's much speculation about the potential of another Blue Jay national title, and with Rabil in the forefront, the Jays' chances look promising.

Try Bio in Film for a great class

Biology in Film

By CARA SELICK

Are you a more visual learner? Perhaps a humanities major who needs an extra natural science credit? Or just somebody who likes movies? Then Biology in Film is without a doubt the choice for you.

While it may be only one credit, this class implements a style of learning beyond that of simple lectures. Basically you get to sit around and watch movies. How much cooler could a class get? Each class starts with a very short explanation by the professor "sponsoring" the movie of that week, followed by a full-length movie, often straight out of Hollywood.

The grading is done solely through questionnaires that you must fill out at the end of the movie. These are fairly simple and serve to confirm that you came to class and stayed, as well as to ensure that you gave what you saw some thought or learned from the experience.

So at this point it may even be redundant to tell you why this course is awesome, but I think it should be said plainly anyway. Last year in Bio in Film, the fol-

lowing films were shown: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Frankenstein*, *Flock of Dodos*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Soylent Green*, *The Double Helix*, *Erin Brockovich*, *Panic in the Streets*, *Awakenings*, *The Island*, *Sleeper*, *GATTACA*, and *Bladerunner*. Looking at this list of 13 movies, the average person can recognize at least half, if not all of these films. This is the foundation on which this course stands. The course takes mostly well-known blockbusters and gives you questions to go along with them, which make you pay attention to the scientific value of the films. You'll find that some may not be very plausible or valuable (such as *Frankenstein*), however you'll learn truths in other seemingly "sci-fi" movies which may surprise and even shock you. So in short, Biology in Film is definitely the best Arts/Sciences class on campus. You get to watch entertaining movies, you get an N credit for it and you might even (astonishingly) learn something that you'll actually remember because of the way it was presented. And the class is always held in a large lecture hall, such as the one in Mudd, so there's room for you and all your friends to take the class together!



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior midfielder Paul Rabil helped the men's lacrosse team win the championships in the 2007 season.

Coziest classes are in high-tech Hodson Hall

Hodson Hall

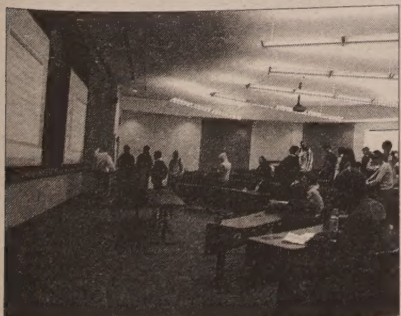
By DYLAN DIGGS

Homewood campus has many fine buildings. There are some with history, like Gilman, and others that are extremely useful, the Milton S. Eisenhower library, but the best all-around building would have to be Hodson Hall.

Once walking into Hodson, one knows that it's a pretty cool place — at least, cool as compared with other places where one attends classes. The bottom floor houses the massive auditorium, known for holding gigantic classes like macroecon. However, unlike Remsen, where the auditoriums are uncomfortable, seats are close together and the rooms are impossible to get out of, this one is a joy to sit in, especially if one encounters a boring lecture. The seats are cushioned and spread far enough apart, while the desk is large enough to splay out a whole binder — no balancing is required to take notes. Not only that, but Hodson 110 offers a gigantic screen for viewing movies or other multimedia, along with six black boards.

The rest of the classrooms are all hooked up, too. Hodson 210 is the best room in the building. The room works for smaller lecture classes but, unlike Hodson 110, allows for a more intimate feel — those in the back row don't have to squint to see their professor's expressions. The seats are well-spaced and offer a whole table that spreads across rows. Included in these tables are power and Internet outlets. There's a screen in the room, also, just like in all the rooms in Hodson Hall, allowing for DVD or VHS viewings and hook-ups to the Internet and computers.

One of Hodson's downsides is how far it is from most dorm rooms, apartments and other classes. For many it can be a trek across campus, but once there, Hodson Hall does not disappoint.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Surf the web during class in Hodson Hall.

Best bathrooms of the Homewood Campus

Men's: Bottom floor of Gilman

By JOHN KERNAN

Public restrooms are rarely worth mentioning. For the most part, they serve their function, and we get on with our lives. However there are a few bathrooms on campus that distinguish themselves. The lavatories in Bloomberg use that soap that smells oh-so-good. Like everything else in Hodson, the bathrooms are a notch above the rest in modernity. These are all just gimmicks, though. For true restroom excellence, one needs only to visit the men's room on the bottom floor of Gilman.

When you open the door to this fine lavatory, you are at first taken aback. Have you accidentally stumbled into some prince's chambers? Nay, friend. This is simply the glory of the Gilman Baths. On your left, there is a long partition extending out into the center of the room. On the far side of the room are the sinks, plenty of them, with large, clear mirrors taking up the entire remainder of the wall space, perfect for checking one's appearance between classes. Soap is easy to acquire, hot water is readily available and drying is done with paper towels — none of this ridiculous "blow-drying" nonsense.

To the left, behind the partition, are the

urinals, again ample in number, allowing for several occupants while still observing the one-urinal-buffer rule. The partitions between the urinals are taller than normal, providing a better sense of seclusion than other bathrooms. The dividers are closer together than other restrooms, but this potential flaw turns out to be another plus: The tightness gives the urinals a cozy, your-own-space feel.

Lining the right wall are the stalls. The sheer number makes you wonder if the designers were planning for some sort of mass-food poisoning. However, the abundance is nevertheless appreciated, for one never has to worry about a shortage.

You have to be careful not to become too engrossed in the splendor of the Baths. It may be glorious, but you probably have a class to get to.

Women's: Arellano Theatre

By LIZ SCHWARTZBERG

If you're looking for the apotheosis of bathrooms, the most sophisticated and chic place to relieve yourself, look no further than the Mattin Center. The one by Arellano Theatre is the most spacious and dramatic bathroom in the complex. The bathrooms' sleek design, muted tones and dimmed

lighting offer a welcome oasis from the stresses of college life. Hell, when you set foot in that bathroom, you can easily forget the fact that you are a mere college student. The bathrooms are more reminiscent of those in stylish restaurants and hotels, and can incite you to take on an entirely different persona. Maybe it has something to do with the bathroom's proximity to Arellano Theatre, but you might feel inclined to pretend you're a glamorous movie star getting ready to head out on the town. And not only are these bathrooms attractive, but they are also exceptionally clean.

After one too many trips to the overused bathrooms at the library, the decrepit HUT bathrooms or the institutionalized crap that is the AMR communal bathrooms, nothing satisfies quite like a trip to the bathroom by Arellano Theatre. The bathroom's wide mirror and plentiful vanity space make it a great place to throw down your bag and freshen up between classes. And since the Mattin Center is, unfortunately, quite underused, its bathrooms are generally empty. This makes the Arellano Theatre bathroom the perfect place to run in and check yourself out, have a good cry, make a private phone call, exchange gossip or even, if you're feeling especially daring, create your own drama and have an afternoon delight. Besides, the D-Level Challenge is so last semester.

Charles Commons is uncommonly wonderful

Charles Commons

By KATLYN TORGERSON

Baltimore is home to a plethora of colleges and universities, so it seems like a difficult task to determine which dorms might be the "best," and furthermore, it would seem unlikely that Hopkins could play host to such a building.

But the Association of University Real Estate Officials just recognized Charles Commons with its 2007 Award of Excellence to signify that the project was innovative, cost-effective and something that other universities should emulate.

After a year of living in the Commons, I have to agree. Although its first year was speckled with mishaps (can anyone say flooding?), the Commons was indubitably a great place to live.

The Commons was built with the intention of being another "student union," as they are often called at other schools. The goal of bringing students together led to the Commons playing host to a wide variety of services and amenities. Charles Commons is all about convenience.

nience.

As a resident, one need only head down the elevator (or the stairs), through the turnstiles and down the hall to find a fitness room, a communal kitchen, a delicious cafeteria, spacious meeting rooms, a banquet room, music rooms and more. Head out the door, and residents are only steps away from Barnes & Noble, its café and the JHMI shuttle stop. Cross 33rd Street, and residents find themselves in the heart of the new and improved Charles Village. Cross Charles Street, and residents find themselves on campus.

The rooms themselves tend to be comfortable and are generally spacious. Each resident has his or her own room as a part of a two- or four-person suite. Four-person suites have a living space with a couch and dining table. All suites have kitchenettes with a stove and fridge (full size in four-person suites). Residents also have spacious common rooms with couches, tables and TVs with cable.

There were certainly a few downsides for students living the Commons last year, but most of them were caused by

the rush to finish the building on schedule. In the future, residents will hopefully be less inconvenienced by such mishaps (such as flooding on the lobby level and noisy fans drying out the floors for days after).

There are a few imperfections in the Commons. Some residents complain that their rooms are far too small (and if you've been in some of them, you know these complaints are warranted). Other rooms, though, are very spacious and comfortable. All bedrooms in the Commons are singles, so students who appreciate privacy will enjoy life there.

Residents have expressed a few other trivial discontents, such as the possibility of having a boring view (some rooms look out to the Charles apartments or the other side of the Commons). Several students have also complained that the walls and ceilings are too thin, but this could be said of nearly all University housing.

Living in the Commons certainly falls into the upper end of campus housing costs, but its convenience seems to outweigh the hefty price tag.

Look forward to best campus event in just six months

Spring Fair

By CARA SELICK

By far, the most exciting weekend on campus since 1971 is the annual Spring Fair. While it always seems to rain that weekend, that doesn't seem to stop people from having a great time.

The best part of Spring Fair is the fact that not only does it bring together the entire Hopkins community for three days straight, but it also includes the wider Baltimore community as well. That's right, for one weekend in April, Homewood campus is completely taken over by the city. And it's amazing.

The fair even features certain kids' activities, such as magicians and a petting zoo, in order to make the event more attractive to families. Watching them roam around the freshman quad definitely makes Hopkins feel like more of a community and a home rather than just a place of higher learning.

In addition, the Spring Fair is organized by a non-profit organization, so participating booths can keep the money they make that weekend. Spring Fair helps to benefit the local community, student organizations, as well as certain charities in this way.

While all this may seem sweet and sentimental, don't worry — there is plenty for the average Hopkins student to do during Spring Fair as well! The main event of the fair is usually a full-fledged concert (last year's headliner was Common). In addition, several student groups perform throughout the weekend, and during the daytime, local bands perform on the Beach. The result is an amazing atmosphere where you'll be able to enjoy some form of music or entertainment no matter where you're walking.

One of the most popular attractions of Spring Fair is the sprinkling of vendors across campus. These vendors are grouped together according to what they're selling so that you can wander around, kind of like an open-air market. The group that gets the biggest turn-out is without a doubt the food vendors. You can find local restaurants from around Baltimore selling anything you can imagine, from tropical smoothies and french fries to gyros and lo mein. There is also a section for arts and crafts vendors where you can purchase (mostly handmade) jewelry, paintings, clothing, etc. Finally, there is a non-profit area where organizations both national and local can educate fair-goers on their causes.

The Spring Fair rite-of-passage staple is indisputably the Beer Garden. Un-

fortunately for most of us at Hopkins, you have to be over 21 to partake in this part of the fair. However once you pass that threshold, you'll find not only beer (which student groups sell to raise mon-

ey), but also live performances from various bands.

So while you muddle through midterms and papers, just think: Only six months left until Spring Fair!



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Spring Fair is a time to win fish and eat deep fried Oreos and cheesecake on a stick. Bet you can't wait!

Babysitting for underclassmen is a great student job

Building Monitor

By HEATHER BARBAKOFF

Your roommate works at Phonathon, and the guy down the hall swipes J-Cards

at the Rec Center. That kid in your math class checks people in at admissions, and the cute kid you see on M-Level also works at Café Q. But you — *you* need to be employed; what is the best possible job for you to find on campus?



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Working as a building monitor allows one the opportunity to sit back, relax, and get paid.

Go be a monitor.

Monitors, if you aren't aware, are the people who man the desks at any of the dormitory locations: Charles Commons, Wolman, McCoy, AMR I and AMR II. Their primary duties include remaining at their desks to watch over their prescribed area and go on "rounds" every half-hour to ensure that no one has performed any nefarious crimes, such as stealing equipment or furniture.

Also, if the monitoring spot happens to be one in Charles Commons, McCoy or AMR II, the monitor on duty is responsible for distributing game equipment and opening practice rooms. Monitors are additionally in charge of the rental and usage of the AV equipment needed by student and outside groups.

OK, that sounds like a lot, but really, monitors spend most of their time at their desks. They do homework, have friends come visit them and order takeout. As long as they remain at their station, they really are free to do whatever it is that they like; <http://www.YouTube.com> has been mentioned as a favorite pastime.

The main activity of monitors is merely watching the people go in and out of

the buildings. It is possible to see who is going out with whom, who is wearing what, and who comes home with whom. Charles Commons has been determined to be the most ideal post from which to people-watch. At the desk in the North Charles St. side lobby, monitors are able to see a plethora of different types stroll by.

However, the cushy spot has its downsides! The Charles Commons monitors are unfortunate in that their desk is directly underneath the ping-pong tables. They frequently have to deal with ping-pong balls raining down upon them. Other than that, monitors complain that their next-largest qualm is when keys don't work properly and when people leave "interesting" items around the common spaces, such as toenail clippings. It is the unfortunate duty of the monitor to clean these little messes up.

Despite these few drawbacks, monitoring is one of the easiest jobs on campus. With few exceptions, a majority of your time is spent sitting around doing homework or watching movies. For around eight bucks an hour, doing next to nothing isn't so bad.

The miracle of parking on 34th Street

By JOHN KERNAN

Ever since the city ended the brief but wonderful era of free parking on Charles Street, finding a place for your car around campus has been a nightmare. The enterprising among us have sought out the Area 12 parking permits that allow parking on the side streets of Charles Village. The lazy or rich purchase parking spots in garages or near their buildings. Some people give up entirely and choose to fly, train or hike back to school. However there are still a few places left where the dark electronic parking obelisks have yet to rise. The best, of course, are those spaces between Wolman and McCoy. They are right by campus, central enough to be within walking distance no matter where you live and, it cannot be stressed enough, free.

But how does one acquire one of these perhaps 15 spots? The turnover rate is very low, and once one frees up, it is taken almost immediately. However, it can be done. First, one needs to plan for the best time for people to be leaving their spots. Since the cars are mostly students', the best bet is to arrive sometime in the evening on the weekend, when people are likely to be moving their cars to go out. Many students have no other use for their cars. Second, you must be patient. Be prepared to circle the block several times. You might ask yourself if it's really worth all this trouble on the fifth lap or so, but rest assured: It is. Eventually, the spot will open. Put your turn signal on and get in there. Be aggressive. You worked hard for this, so don't let some other chump steal your glory. Parallel park (you can, right?) and rest for a moment. Enjoy the awesome wave of satisfaction: You've just secured one of the most precious commodities in Baltimore. Finally, leave your car there as long as possible. Moving means having to go through this whole process again, so you should probably just walk. You never know who's going to be circling the block, looking to nab your spot.

You might be thinking to yourself, "Instead of going through all of this, maybe I should just shell out the \$20 for a parking permit." If you like throwing money away, go for it. But you'll always know, deep inside, that you gave up on \$20 worth of fun in college.

There are also free parking spots over by the Dell House, but you can't park there. Those are reserved for News-Letter writers only.

Study in the midst of artistic masterpieces

By ALEXANDER TRAUM

What is the best place to study, you ask? The MSE Library? Overcrowded and noisy. The Hut? Stuffy. The Beach? Certainly, if you're satisfied with getting through barely a page of reading. No, the best place to study on campus (though technically it is not on campus) is the Baltimore Museum of Art's sculpture garden.

Covering an area of nearly three acres, the garden features 34 sculptures covering a time span of over 100 years. The garden features such figural masterpieces as Auguste Rodin's *Balzac* (1892), to Alexander Calder's monumental abstraction *100 Yard Dash* (1969).

The sculpture garden is divided into two levels. The upper level, The Janet and Alan Wurtzbarger Sculpture Garden, showcases works by late 19th and early 20th century artists. Particular highlights featured here are magnificent bronze Emile-Antoine Bourdelle's *Fruit* (1911), Henry Moore's *Three-Piece Reclining Figure No. 1* (1961-1962), and Max Bill's proto-minimalist *Endless Ribbon* (1953).

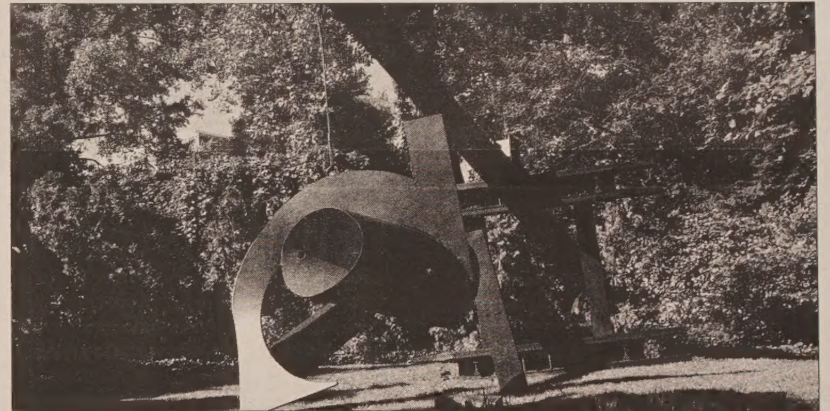
The better place to study, however, is the lower level, The Ryda and Robert H. Levi Sculpture Garden. With its sloping paths, grassy patches and benches, The Ryda and Robert H. Levi Sculpture Garden is the idyllic place to pore over a good book. In the springtime, the gardens are robust with their foliage. When snow covered, the sculptures can be seen in an entirely new light.

This level features works from the later half of the 20th Century including José Ruiz de Rivera's *Construction 140* (1971), Tony Smith's *Spitball* (1961), and Michael Heizer's *Eight-Part Circle* (1976/1987).

However, there are several downsides to studying at the BMA sculpture garden. First, museum visitors frequent the gardens and during peak hours (like a Saturday or Sunday afternoon), the museum can become crowded, and thus prove quite distracting as little children run all over the place.

Secondly, one must remember that the garden is outside and when it is cold or rainy, studying here is less than ideal. Taking these conditionals in mind, the BMA provides an excellent place to study on sunny days at off-peak hours (Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings are particularly fine times to study for a few hours).

The Baltimore Museum of Art's sculpture garden is open whenever the museum is open: Wednesday-Friday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. The BMA and its sculpture garden are closed Mondays and



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Baltimore Museum of Art's sculpture garden is the perfect place to study on a warm sunny day.

Tuesdays.

Forget the MSE and and the Hut, the best place to study on "campus" is the BMA's sculpture garden. Plus, if you

need to take a relaxing study break, you can just venture into the Museum and tour its outstanding holdings free of charge.

Nap before noon to get a fresh start to the day

By ANUM AZAM

Barring all scientific and otherwise sensible reasons for things being the way that they are, the ending time for one day seems arbitrary and sometimes foolish. Why is 12 a.m. the boundary between our days? The night is young.

If one were to mark the actual times that someone, say a college student, actually went to bed to get a night's rest and then woke up again in the morning, the values would be considerably smaller than 12, probably for both the sleeping and the waking points.

Midnight is about the time that you should start worrying, and then you can proceed to work out all of the things you are worried about before the next day (or whenever you absolutely need to have all those things worked out by).

Think of all the things you'd never have worked out had you missed the opportunity by saying, "Ah, the day has ended! I'll wake up again later."

This discrepancy between the formal and actual end of the day is probably a factor in the amount of sleep people end up accumulating in reality, which in turn contributes to their desire to further give the system the finger by briefly sleeping at completely inappropriate times during

the day.

These are naps.

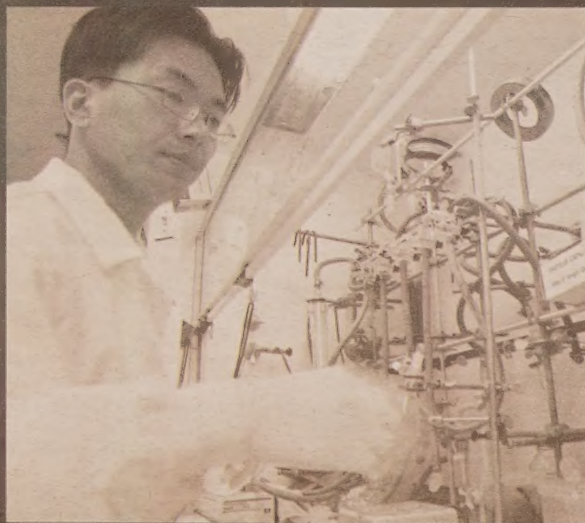
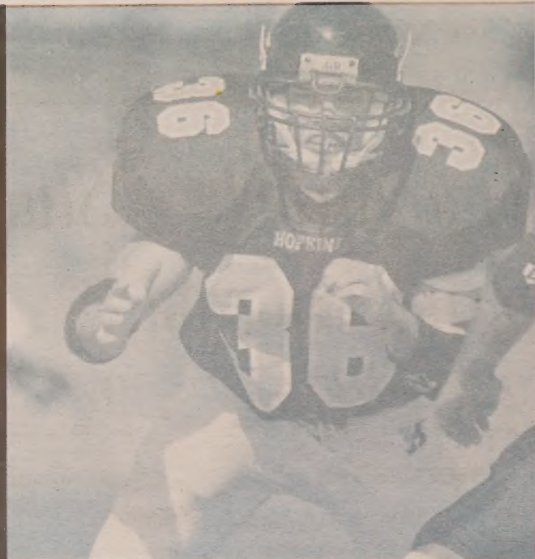
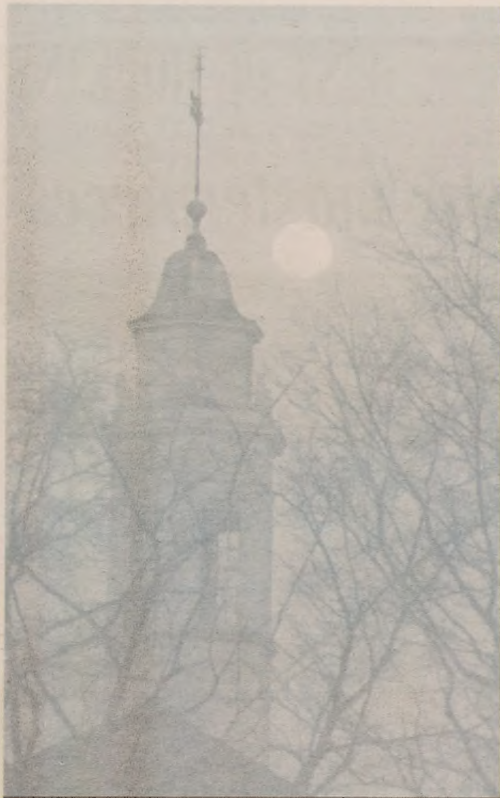
I don't nap because I recognize the act for what it is — a blatant show of anarchy in the otherwise orderly world of slumber.

However it is clear to me that the best time to take a nap is between 10 and 11 a.m. on a weekday. This time span is interestingly inverted considering the parameters within which one is actually supposed to sleep.

More importantly, it bridges the gap between the pseudo-beginning of the day and the real beginning of the day. You know, the time that you might wake up to go to a 9 a.m. class and the time when the world begins to lose its blurriness around the edges, when you wake up for the second time from the nap. This is the purpose of the nap.

There are ways to make the edges sharp at 9 a.m. too, but these ways are rather like flying chickens.

Different evolutionary constraints would have allowed chickens to fly, but now they have been running about clucking for so long without ever having left the ground for longer than a few seconds at a time that it seems a sort of pleasant pipe dream more than anything else.



2007 johns hopkins family weekend

